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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4202

May 3, 2024

Chairman Tom Cole
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your work on the fiscal year 2025 appropriations legislation. I respectfully request funding for the following project in Tennessee's second congressional district:

Project Name: Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont in Townsend, TN

Entity: Great Smoky Mountains Institute, Inc.

Address: 9275 Tremont Road, Townsend TN, 37882

Project Description: The Great Smoky Mountains Institute, Inc. requests funding to adapt an existing facility into a residential-based public education and workforce learning center for youth and adults in rural Townsend, TN. As the first Living Building Certified project in Tennessee, it will be developed with industry and partners utilizing advanced building technologies resulting in an energy-resilient, grid-interactive campus. This center will provide a platform for workforce development programs for 21st-century jobs, provide participants access to essential mental, social, and physical health benefits, and spur regional investment.

Project Justification: The Great Smoky Mountains Institute is a rural, small non-profit business with over 50 years of experience in education programs in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Federal funds will support the construction of an innovative public education center that will spur investment in the rural town, foster community engagement, and provide R&D opportunities for resilient energy systems. The funding will increase the capacity by approximately 100% to serve tens of thousands of participants across the region through education and essential public health services.

Federal Nexus: This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in the above project. Thank you again for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tim Burchett,
Member of Congress

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia — Vice Chair

Oversight and Accountability

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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