

JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
SECOND DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

RANKING MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Amherst College Astronomy Observation Telescope project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Amherst College, located at 79 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002. The funding would be used for to purchase a scientific-grade, 28-inch reflecting telescope and corresponding instrumentation. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because students at the Five College Consortium of Amherst, Smith, Mount Holyoke, and Hampshire Colleges and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, along with hundreds of local K-12 students from surrounding school districts and visitors throughout Western Massachusetts will be able to engage with and learn from the telescope.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for the purposes described in section 20102 of title 51, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, nor does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. McGovern".

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress