

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Center for Urban Farming and Food Security project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Regional Environmental Council, Inc., located at 42 Lagrange Street, Rear, Worcester, Massachusetts 01610. The funding would be used for the costs associated with acquiring, preserving, and developing an established 20-year-old urban farm and adjacent mill building in the city of Worcester, to create a regional Center for Urban Farming and Food Security. Proposed facility improvements include an office, warehouse, greenhouse, classroom, market, kitchen, and gardening spaces. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Center will showcase innovative approaches to addressing community food security and will significantly increase the number of low- and moderate-income individuals and families in Central Massachusetts with access to healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate local food. The Center will enable REC to expand existing programs, including mobile farmers' markets, youth and adult urban farming workforce development, and community and school gardening.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 USC 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress