

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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May 10, 2024

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 Observatory Telescope project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Amherst College located at 220 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002. The funding of \$1,064,000 would be used to purchase a modern observatory/telescope for the Amherst College Science Center. The project includes purchasing a 28-inch reflecting telescope and corresponding scientific instrumentation. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will significantly expand the teaching and outreach capacity of the department, including service to students at the Five College Consortium – 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.

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

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

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

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress