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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
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May 8, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,


I am requesting funding for the Hartford Public Library (HPL) Downtown Location Restoration and Renovation in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Hartford located at 550 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103. The funding would be used to repair and renovate 145,000 sq ft community space.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because HPL downtown location experienced catastrophic water damage in December 2022. Coils in rooftop HVAC units cracked during a cold weather event and released water that cascaded through all four library floors. Collections were spared but water pooled on floors, damaged ceilings, fixtures, soaked walls, ducts, elevator shafts, and mechanical units and ruined furniture and equipment. HPL is working with Travelers (insurance provider), City of Hartford, private donors and elected officials to garner the needed support to continue critical community programming during the closure and plan for the restoration. Current secured funding does not cover the cost of bringing HPL back.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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

Sincerely,



JOHN B. LARSON  
Member of Congress