



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0701**

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the East Hartford Downtown Post Office Acquisition in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of East Hartford, located 740 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108.

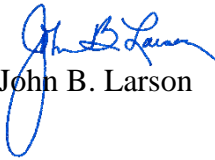
The funding would be used to acquire the downtown East Hartford Post Office building.

The East Hartford Downtown Post Office building was constructed in 1939 and was later remodeled in 1965. The one-story, brick exterior building covers about 7,060 square feet, most of it located on the first floor and in the basement. The total land area of the parcel is .71 acres. The facility is located on a highly-visible parcel of land in the central business district on Route 5 (also known as Main Street) and has a heavy flow of traffic. The parcel is highly-visible for people travelling on Route 5 and lies at the intersection of Connecticut Boulevard and Main Street. The site has close proximity to Interstate 84 and Interstate 91, further improving its potential for a commercial use. Public transport access to the area is excellent, with Greater Hartford Transit District buses passing frequently. As a result, the site has good connectivity all around and is highly suitable for a commercial application of any kind. Next door to the Post Office stands the Raymond Library, the Town's main library and a facility that has undergone a recent \$9.5 million renovation.

When discussions about closing the Downtown Post Office and selling the property began to circulate in 2015, the Town used a combination of public and foundation funds to create a feasibility study for the re-use of the property with an eye toward acquiring the property and using it as an important factor in the ongoing economic development efforts in the Downtown District. The scenario most favored by the Town and other stakeholders was the reuse of the first floor of the building as rented-out office space and using the basement's 2,600 square feet for civic functions tied closely with the adjacent Raymond Library. Additionally, the large parking area currently at the Post Office could accommodate both the commercial use and increased public usage of the Library and its facilities.

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

Sincerely,

  
John B. Larson