

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Engineering Laboratories Enhancement Initiative in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Ohio State University at 281 W Lane Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43210. The funding will be used to renovate and purchase research equipment for laboratories at the Ohio State University's regional campuses located in Lima, Marion, Mansfield, and Newark. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the funds will help sustain the program's emphasis on developing Industry 4.0 manufacturing-ready graduates, which requires the latest technologies and laboratory space. Funding would also be used to replace outdated equipment. The project aims to provide the equipment needed to Ohio State's regional campuses' laboratories to meet Ohio manufacturers' demand for skilled graduates ready for industry jobs. With the manufacturing skills gap expected to widen to 2.4 million jobs due to retiring workers, the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology (BSET) program focuses on project-based coursework, hands on skills, and technological expertise. The campuses plan to graduate 35-40 workforce-ready students annually to address the talent deficit, with the number of graduates expected to increase.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



Mike Carey
Member of Congress