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May 1, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Camarillo Hybrid Microgrid Standby Power Resiliency Project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Camarillo, located at 601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010.

The funding would be used for design and construction of a strategic hybrid microgrid system to enhance emergency response capabilities and long-term energy security. The project will fortify critical operations by integrating power generators, solar technology, and battery storage with advanced switchgear controls, ensuring uninterrupted power and services during emergencies. The need for the project was proven in November 2024 when the Mountain Fire devastated hundreds of structures in and around Camarillo. The City regularly faces disruptions from power shutoffs during Santa Ana wind conditions, compromising emergency services. This critical infrastructure project allows Camarillo to maintain operational capacity during grid disruption, with substantial cost savings, while strengthening capacity to serve residents during emergencies. The design employs energy technology in a multi-layered approach, providing primary standby power and generators delivering reliable backup for extended periods. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it represents a strategic investment that promotes infrastructure and disaster resilience. This project strengthens essential government infrastructure in the City, ensuring City Hall and municipal operations can function during emergencies. This project directly supports the hardening of critical infrastructure against disasters, maintaining government continuity, and protecting American communities. Developing local energy generation and storage capabilities, this microgrid reduces dependence on vulnerable centralized power grids. This approach enhances energy security and self-reliance at the local level. The hybrid design incorporating solar, batteries, and generators creates a cost-effective solution that will generate long-term utility savings for Camarillo taxpayers. This represents responsible stewardship of federal funds with demonstrable return on investment and reduced operational costs. The microgrid project also creates opportunities for collaboration between government and private sector technology providers, leveraging private sector expertise and investment.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 203 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018.

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

Sincerely,

JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress