

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Rural Studio: Increasing the Supply of Homes in Africatown in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Auburn University located at 107 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849. The funding would be used for designing, planning, and construction costs for five high-performance demonstration “Forever Homes” in Africatown, Alabama. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses critical housing needs in Africatown by providing replicable, high-performance homes that deliver long-term economic benefits to families and the broader community. The project adds to existing local capacity, ensuring that initial federal investment is leveraged effectively. The successful demonstration of these prototypes can serve as a scalable model for similar historically significant communities facing complex housing challenges across Alabama and nationally.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), and 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,



Shomari C. Figures
Member of Congress