

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1312

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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$950,000 for Advanced Manufacturing Training Program in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department, located at 19 Public Square, Suite 200, Belleville, Illinois 62220.

The funding would be used for employment training for individuals in disenfranchised areas who normally would not have access to such training. St. Clair County will incorporate its light rail system in combination with Southwestern Illinois College's new Advanced Manufacturing Training facility to offer training opportunities. Also, Boeing is providing its proprietary FAA approved curriculum to the training provider. All participants successfully completing this program will be guaranteed an interview with Boeing to work at their new facility manufacturing the MQ-25.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits. This project offers a rare opportunity for disenfranchised individuals to take advantage of initial staffing for a new advanced manufacturing plant. The aerospace industry offers high paying jobs for highly skilled workers most of which, under normal circumstances, are acquired through a gradual bottom-up advancement process. Due to staffing shortages and contract commitments, there is an opportunity to take advantage of programs, training, and transportation already in place to expedite this process and incorporate individuals that have historically been left out due to transportation and skills gaps. In addition to providing training, St. Clair County is working with Southwestern Illinois College to re-open their childcare center and help off-set childcare costs while participants are trained and getting established in their careers.

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

Sincerely,



Mike Bost
Member of Congress