

PETE SESSIONS  
17TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND REFORM

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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4317

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June 3, 2021

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food, and Drug  
Administration, and Related  
Agencies  
U.S House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food, and Drug  
Administration, and Related  
Agencies  
U.S House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2022 bill, I respectfully request that you give consideration to the following funding priorities:

1. Provide a funding level of \$15,000,000 for **The Yards of Cameron** as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is Cameron Future Foundation located at P.O. Box 432, Cameron, TX 76520. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because his investment in the city of Cameron will increase access to major development, supporting the region's economic resiliency. Cameron is building a better future to encourage capital investment and create new jobs; it is leveraging its greatest assets-its people, its community spirit, and its unique central location.

The Texas travel industry contributes more than \$70 billion to the states economy and employs 1.1 million Texans. The youth sports market is valued at \$15.5 billion in the United States and is projected to reach \$29 billion by 2025 - larger than major league baseball (Wintergreen Research Inc.).

Annually the youth sports industry generates \$7 billion in direct visitor spending nationally (National Association of Sports Commissions and the U.S. Travel Association).

The travel industry is a primary driver of economic growth and job creation in many small Texas towns. The benefits of creating a thriving sports tourism destination in Cameron include increased economic activity for the central Texas region, new well-paying jobs, and crucial tax revenue to help support essential public services. This project would lead to 41,000 annual visitors and support 100 new jobs.

2. Provide a funding level of \$2,000,000 to the **Calvert to Bremond Rural Fiber Project** as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is the Brazos Valley Council of Governments located at 3991 East 29<sup>th</sup> St., Bryan, TX 77802. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it would improve rural broadband access in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas, where lack of rural broadband access has resulted in inability to effectively participating in telehealth, telecommuting, distance learning, ecommerce, and providing critical communication. This proposed Calvert to Bremond Rural Fiber Project would allow for more rural communities in the 17th Congressional District of Texas to not only have access to these critical activities but would support competitive economic growth as well.

3. Provide \$12,580,000 for the Agricultural Research Services. This funding will allow the Agricultural Research Services five major cotton breeding and germplasm development program locations, one of which is located in College Station, Texas, to have the resources they need to ensure that the domestic cotton industry remains competitive worldwide.

4. Provide \$20,762,000 for the National Rural Water Association Rural Water Circuit Rider Program. This funding is a 3% increase over FY2021 and will become even more critical with the loss of over 1,000 rural development staff in the field. Circuit Rider's on-site, hands-on assistance for operations, management, disaster assistance, governance, and finance are essential for the sustainability of small, rural water and wastewater utilities.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in the four projects described above.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Sessions". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pete Sessions (TX-17)  
Member of Congress