

PETE SESSIONS
17TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM

RANKING MEMBER
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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April 28, 2022

The Honorable Sanford D. 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 Andy Harris
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 Harris,

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2023 bill, I respectfully request that you give consideration to the following funding priorities:

1. Please provide a funding level of \$3,000,000 for a **City of Thorndale Water Supply and Water Distribution Project** as a community project funding request in fiscal year 2023. The entity intended to receive funding is the City of Thorndale, located at 105 N Main Street, Thorndale, Texas 76577. This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because building a new distribution system for treated drinking water in Thorndale will allow this area of the 17th Congressional District is necessary to meet projected population growth demands that the existing municipal water system in Thorndale is unable to currently satisfy. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.
2. Please provide a funding level of \$585,000 for **Kosse Volunteer Fire Department Building and Facilities** as a community project funding request in fiscal year 2023. The entity intended to receive funding is the Kosse Volunteer Fire Department, located at 109 S. Narcissus St., Kosse, Texas 76653. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because this area of the 17th Congressional District of Texas is also experiencing rapid growth and demand for services continues to increase. A new fire station in Kosse will replace a 40-year-old building and will meet current needs and provide space for safety, training, and acquisition of additional equipment necessary for the future. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.
3. Please provide an increase of \$25,000,000 and the following report language for the Meals-to-You demonstration program: "The Committee recognizes the benefits the Meals-to-You (MTY) demonstration program and the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty has had on reducing food insecurity, particularly for children and youth in rural and frontier areas who are unable to access congregate feeding sites. The Committee provides an increase of \$25 million for the MTY demonstration program and directs the Department to expand the program into new areas, while also continuing to serve areas that have

received such funding in prior years. The Committee encourages USDA to continue providing meal delivery services through the MTY demonstration program through a grant or cooperative agreement to a non-profit provider that works with local service institutions to enroll eligible low-income children.”

4. Please provide increased funding of \$4,500,000 for Food Safety and Food Defense Research through Responsive Agriculture at the Agricultural Research Service, which will support efforts at The Texas A&M University System to develop, analyze, and apply predictive analytics for the benefit of public health and responsive agriculture the over 25,000 agricultural producers in the 17th Congressional District rely on; and enhance food defense by supporting advances in the research of new technologies and capabilities in food safety that will reduce and eliminate threats to the food and agriculture supply chain nationwide.

5. Please provide a fiscal year 2023 funding increase of \$1,400,000 to support the Advanced Genomic and Bioinformatic Tools for Accelerated Cotton Genetic Improvement project, located in College Station, Texas, which has been operating well below current USDA Agricultural Research Service standards of \$600,000 per scientist year (SY). This project has developed an advanced tool allowing geneticists and breeders to identify, catalog, and search for specific characteristics of associated germplasm rapidly, thus providing a tremendous communication tool aiding the research community find or share discoveries rapidly and efficiently.

6. Please provide a fiscal year 2023 increase of \$1,350,000 for the Molecular Characterization and Phenotypic Assessments of Cotton Fiber Quality Traits, located in College Station, Texas, to bring the total funding to \$ 2,604,550. This project places focus on the discovery and characterization of biochemical pathways and genes controlling elongation of cotton fiber and has high impact benefits for US cotton to remain competitive in the global market by placing focus on the discovery and characterization of biochemical pathways and genes controlling elongation of cotton fiber.

7. Please provide a fiscal year 2023 increase of \$2,300,000 for the Agricultural Research Service’s Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center (SPARC) program in College Station, Texas. Plant breeding experts in cotton, that are also familiar with other crops as well have identified significant repair and renovation needs to the storage vault and related buildings and equipment. These much-needed renovations will allow improved storage protection and distribution of the collection in addition to providing for increased space needs to better complete its mission.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress