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

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May 3, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I respectfully request funding for the Energetic Material Training Facility in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive this funding is the Sam Houston State University, located at 2424 Sam Houston Avenue, Suite B-8, Box 2448, Huntsville, Texas 77340.

The \$4,400,000 request will expand the leadership position of existing forensics research and training programs at Sam Houston State University by constructing a facility to conduct highly realistic trainings, utilizing human cadavers, for a variety of mass catastrophic disaster and recovery scenarios (fires, explosions, earthquakes, plane crashes, etc.). The project will dramatically expand the scope and impact of training efforts currently provided by SHSU and create a central training and workforce development platform to serve local, regional, state and national law enforcement, emergency and medical task forces, mass fatality response and search and rescue teams. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will be used to construct a first-of-its-kind training facility for law enforcement officials to improve mass disaster preparedness and planning for tactical operations and response teams.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress