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

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May 20, 2025

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I respectfully request funding for the Center for Wood Technology and Demonstration in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive this funding is Stephen F. Austin State University, located at 1936 North Street, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961.

This \$2,300,000 request would fund the construction of a facility and the procurement of lab equipment and simulators for the new Center for Wood Technology and Demonstration at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA). Funding will be used to significantly rehabilitate and equip a former poultry processing plant into a functional research and training facility. This Center will prioritize training students at the trade school and undergraduate level in emerging bioenergy and wood product technology and emerging industries. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will support the demand for a skilled workforce in the forest products industry and drive innovation in sustainable production and use of wood products and bioenergy. SFA is leading economic development strategy and has numerous regional partners working toward the transformation of the rural Deep East Texas region into an innovation hub for bioenergy generation and the manufacture of forest products and by-products.

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