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

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND WORKFORCE
RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Orinda, located at 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, California 94563.

The funding would be used for enhancing the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break (NOSFB) to reduce the probability of catastrophic fire spread while improving firefighter access and operational effectiveness, specifically by maintaining previously treated areas, conducting hazard tree identification and abatement, and expanding interagency coordination. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the NOSFB provides measurable wildfire-behavior mitigation, strengthens initial-attack success potential, and serves as a foundational element of the larger Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and landscape-resilience strategy. Continued investment in maintenance and interagency coordination is essential to ensure that the fuel break remains effective over time and continues to deliver long-term risk-reduction benefits to the community by reducing damage caused by wildfires and other natural disasters.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized by the Soil Conservation and Allotment Domestic Act of 1935, 16 U.S. Code sections 590a-590d and 590f-g.

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

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress