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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the University of Texas at Austin's Extreme Weather and Environmental Data Collaborative for Scientifically-Informed Decision-Making Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Texas at Austin, located at 110 Inner Campus Drive, Austin, Texas 78712.

The funding would be used for research to create first-of-its-kind city neighborhood/community scale datasets for extreme weather and environmental stressors using machine learning and computational tools that can be used by local government and communities to understand which areas require attention to mitigate extreme heat, or other environmental stressors. It will develop computational web portal/tools using weather data, and satellite remote sensed datasets to understand how smoke from brushfire and other sources can travel within the city and thus help with community mitigation plans. In addition, the funds will support community workshops and partnerships with different community groups to identify the links between what the weather and environmental stressors are identified from these high spatial resolution datasets, what are the community experiences, and how these together can be created into vulnerability maps that can become template for resilient infrastructure investments. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because such datasets and technology will allow for data-driven decision making regarding where and how critical infrastructure should be deployed for providing positive outcomes for taxpayers to have a safer, more sustainable and economically vibrant future.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett