



## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Emergency Disaster Energy Hub Project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Austin, located at 301 West Second Street, Second Floor, Austin, TX 78701.

The funding would be used to install battery backup systems and upgrade existing solar panels at two community centers to improve community disaster preparedness and response: Northwest Recreation Center and Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center. These infrastructural improvements will grow the City's capacity to withstand extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, storms, and grid failures, advancing specific goals outlined in the City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because critical city functions can be compromised as extreme weather events increase in frequency and intensity in Austin, creating additional health and safety emergencies. For example, during the extreme winter weather event of February 2021, hundreds of thousands of Austin homes lacked water and electricity. This investment supports current initiatives to maintain power supply during outages and decreases dependence on the grid. This initiative secures continuous power at trusted locations delivering aid to Austin's residents when they need it most.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 203 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018.

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

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett