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8TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

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AND REFORM

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP

Congress of the United States  
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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
House Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Offshore Wind Workforce Development Center in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is UMass Boston, located at 100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA 02125. The funding would be used for creation of labs for the Offshore Wind Workforce Development Center. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Offshore Workforce Development Center at UMass Boston will engage thousands of students, organized labor and industry in the myriad emerging careers related to the ocean. Through a combination of state-of-the art virtual reality and on-line training integrated with accessible hands-on, on-water, and in-person learning, students and current workers will enter or become trained in multiple career paths that will lead directly to thousands of jobs needed in the offshore wind, aquaculture, blue tech, and coastal resilience fields. A high quality Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education system is critical to the success of the United States as a global leader, and is, in fact, a matter of national security. The need for well-trained scientists and engineers crosses many career fields, and requires an all hands-on-deck approach. However, those students that choose to pursue STEM careers do not represent the changing demographics of the US population, and an opportunity to compete with international peers such as China for training and retaining critical scientists and engineers is being lost. The situation in the Geosciences is worse than in STEM generally, and is dire in the Ocean Sciences. The reasons for this are many including historical, cultural, and access issues, but today, there is a tremendous opportunity to reverse this trend by employing partnerships of Universities and industry as well as moving beyond relying on traditional four-year degrees for workforce development.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,



Member of Congress