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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting funding for the Hough Community Green Space project in the fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Western Reserve Land Conservancy, located at 1601 E. 85th St., Cleveland, OH 44106. The funding would be used to bring much-needed, high-quality passive park space to the east side Cleveland neighborhood of Hough.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Hough Community Green Space project is an effort by Western Reserve Land Conservancy to bring much needed, high-quality passive park space to the east side Cleveland neighborhood of Hough, through the re-purposing of the 2.6-acre former John W. Raper school site (now vacant land) into a vibrant, naturalized park area. In March of 2021, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the adaptive reuse and redevelopment of surplus school sites throughout the city of Cleveland. While the main focus of the RFQ was on real estate development, Western Reserve Land Conservancy identified this site as an opportunity for the development of a high-quality park space to support and enhance surrounding redevelopment efforts in the neighborhood.

Working with the local community development corporation serving the Hough neighborhood - the Famicos Foundation - and with the support of City Architecture, Western Reserve Land Conservancy developed a plan for the conversion of this vacant space into a passive park and natural area. The proposal was viewed favorably by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the City of Cleveland, as it will complement efforts to stabilize the housing market in this predominately Black and historically underserved neighborhood.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shontel M. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shontel" being more prominent and the last name "Brown" written in a more compact, stylized manner.

Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress