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March 30, 2023

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the OAI – Precision Urban Agriculture Initiative in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Ohio Aerospace Institute, located at 22800 Cedar Point Road, Cleveland, OH 44142.

The purpose of this project is to help Cleveland as it pursues the goal of being the nexus of 5G, a leader in advanced small drone operations in populated areas, and a developer of urban green space for farming. Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI) will help the adoption of “Precision Urban Agriculture” in the Greater Cleveland area.

Northern Ohio, and especially the OH-11 District, is at the center of resurgence regarding urban agriculture. The benefits are direct and immediate, from addressing food deserts, to job creation, to mental health benefits related to greening an environment.

A new generation of agronomic techniques has the potential to revolutionize how we grow food. Precision Urban Agriculture refers to a new range of agronomic techniques that sharply limit the inputs that are used to grow food. By growing in compact, often vertical settings, the growing environment can be better controlled by various planting and “soil” factors such as lighting, temperature, and humidity. In addition, by reducing the distance between production and consumers Precision Urban Agriculture can put healthy food on the plates of urban consumers while helping the environment at the same time.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by (15 U.S.C. § 272(b)(1)).

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

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress