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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AND GLOBAL
COUNTERTERRORISM
ASIA, THE PACIFIC,
CENTRAL ASIA, AND NONPROLIFERATION

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt:

I write to respectfully request \$1,978,612 in fiscal year 2022 funding for the Virginia Climate Center.

The entity to receive funding for this project is George Mason University, located at 4400 University Dr, Fairfax, VA, 22030.

This project would establish the establish the Virginia Climate Center to serve as a climate extension service to help communities in the Commonwealth increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. This project will establish the Center in partnership with the City of Fairfax, Fairfax County, and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. The Center will provide products and services to Virginia firms and municipalities to adopt climate risk prevention and mitigation strategies for sustainable entrepreneurship, enhanced profitability, and wise resource management. Local decision makers will gain access to an unprecedented range of observational data, environmental models, and experts in climate science, sustainability, and engineering solutions. The Center's data-driven decision support will save tax dollars and improve the livelihoods of Virginians, increasing resilience to severe weather, air pollution, drought and floods, with an emphasis on the underprivileged communities that are most susceptible to adverse effects of climate change.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia