

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA
2265 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1492

FAIRFAX OFFICE:
10680 MAIN ST
SUITE 140
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
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INDO-PACIFIC

MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AND CENTRAL ASIA

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Research Center on Drinking Water of the Metropolitan Washington Area in fiscal year 2025. The entities to receive funding for this project is Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, located at 777 North Capitol St NE, #300, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Project: Research Center on Drinking Water of the Metropolitan Washington Area

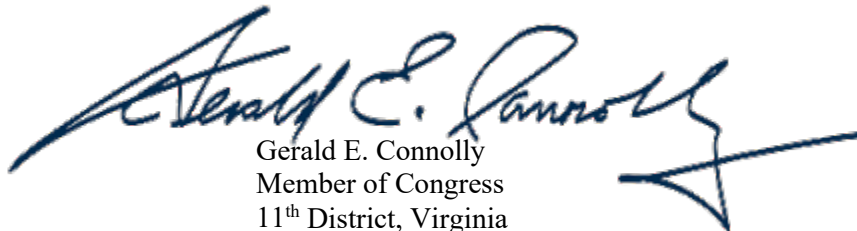
Amount: \$1,700,000

Background: This project would establish a research center to help drinking water systems mitigate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the drinking water of the Metropolitan Washington area. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because drinking water systems across the country will soon need to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's newly finalized rule "PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation" limiting levels of six PFAS in drinking water. In order to come into compliance with this regulation, drinking water systems will need to invest in infrastructure upgrades, and the Center will conduct research to ensure that these investment decisions are data driven and based on science by facilitating communication among partners to identify priorities and develop a map of source reduction and pollution prevention efforts; conducting new research to address known priorities of highest urgency; and developing a strategic research and implementation plan for the region, with recommendations for stakeholders. The Center will develop multilateral partnerships throughout the region and with the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) to ensure compliance. This funding is consistent with widely-supported bipartisan goal of reducing PFAS in the environment.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for the purposes described in section 272, title 15, United States Code.

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

Best Regards,



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