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

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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 Fairfax County Street Tree Planting and Heat Island Reduction in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Fairfax County Government, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA, 22035.

Project: Fairfax County Street Tree Planting and Heat Island Reduction

Recipient: Fairfax County Government, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035

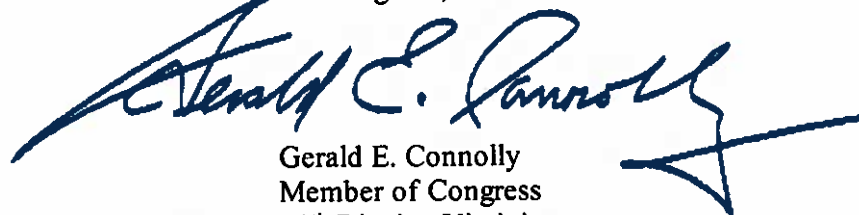
Amount: \$750,000

Background: This project would retrofit areas of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) rights-of-way for street tree planting. Expanding urban tree canopy is part of Objective 3A of the Virginia Department of Forestry's 2020 Strategic Plan (e.g., State Forest Action Plan). The project would help expand urban tree canopy and reduce the urban heat island effect in Fairfax County. Additionally, since the majority of Virginia roads are maintained by VDOT, this will set a precedent for street tree planting and reducing urban heat islands in the Commonwealth. Fairfax County is part of Metropolitan Washington, DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area for the purposes of meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990). Increasing the area's tree canopy is cited in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' State Implementation Plan, as required by the Clean Air Act, as a proven and important part of the region's strategy to improve air quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and reduce ground-level ozone. This project is a good use of taxpayer dollars, because it will improve air quality and associated health outcomes for citizens of the region.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 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.

Best Regards,



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