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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0306

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
NATIONAL SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

March 19, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting community project funding for Applied Hypersonics and Directed Energy Integration Workforce Development in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Arizona located at 1200 E University Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85721.

The funding would be used to address workforce development needs in this strategically important industry through the purchase of high-tech state-of-the art ground testing and manufacturing equipment for use in hypersonics and directed energy research and development applications. The existing building is already owned by the University, and if provided with \$2 million in funding, it could be retrofitted with research equipment and operational quickly.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because investing in hypersonics and directed energy workforce development is critical for national security. Adversaries like China and Russia have advanced these technologies, fielding hypersonic weapons that challenge U.S. defenses and directed energy systems that promise cost-effective counters to proliferating threats (e.g., drones, missiles). A skilled workforce is essential to accelerate development, transition prototypes to operational systems, and maintain technological superiority. Shortages in specialized talent—engineers, technicians, and experts in materials, manufacturing, and integration—risk delaying fielding capabilities, weakening deterrence, and eroding U.S. military overmatch. Targeted investments build pipelines of talent, strengthen the defense industrial base, and ensure America can outpace competitors in these domains.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Ciscomani', written in a cursive style.

Juan Ciscomani  
Member of Congress