



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

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Allegheny College in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Allegheny Lab for Innovation & Creativity @ Bessemer located at 764 Bessemer Street Meadville PA 16335. The funding would be used to purchase laser welding and mechatronics research and training equipment for the Allegheny Lab for Innovation & Creativity (ALIC) @ Bessemer. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Workforce Development as Economic Development Manufacturing remains a cornerstone of the regional economy, yet employers consistently report difficulty finding workers trained in advanced automation, controls, robotics, and precision welding technologies. ALIC's proposed labs would directly address this gap by providing hands-on, industry-aligned training using modern equipment that reflects real-world production environments. Every dollar invested in technical workforce development generates long-term economic returns through higher wages, increased tax revenue, and reduced reliance on public assistance programs. Skilled workers attract and retain employers, creating a multiplier effect across the regional economy.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 272 of title 15, United States Code

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress