



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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Mercer County Cooperative Extension & Emergency Center Renovations in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Mercer County located at 125 S. Diamond Street, Suite 103 Mercer PA 16137. The funding would be used to support the Mercer County Cooperative Extension & Emergency Center Renovations, which will modernize the Penn State Extension Office in Coolspring Township. The Mercer County Penn State Extension Office, a county-owned facility, serves as a critical hub for rural governance, education, and emergency operations. This project is not simply a capital improvement, it is an urgent investment in a high-traffic, multi-use facility that supports the continuity of local government, public safety, civic engagement, and lifelong learning. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because modernizing the Mercer County Penn State Extension Office is a vital investment in public safety, transforming the facility into a resilient emergency operations center and backup courthouse. By installing a backup generator, fire alarm systems, and security cameras, the project ensures the continuity of judicial and emergency services for a rural community vulnerable to infrastructure gaps. Beyond safety, these taxpayer-funded upgrades revitalize economic and youth development by restoring a modernized kitchen for agricultural training and providing ADA-compliant spaces for 4-H programs. Ultimately, these energy-efficient renovations create a secure, high-tech hub for civic engagement, reducing long-term operating costs while ensuring all residents have equitable access to essential county services.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a)

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

Sincerely,

Member of Congress