

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4604

May 2, 2025

Chairman Tom Cole
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

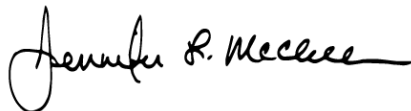
I am requesting funding for the Virginia Commonwealth University Robotics and Autonomous Systems Research project in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Virginia Commonwealth University, located at 601 West Main Street, Suite 331, Richmond, VA 23284. The funding would be used to provide resources for a new robotics and autonomous systems engineering research program that benefits state and national needs in U.S. manufacturing, transportation, defense, agriculture, and other critical areas.

This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will allow Virginia Commonwealth University to conduct cutting-edge research in robotics and autonomous systems, addressing critical applications in aerial drones, autonomous vehicles, collaborative and rehabilitation robots, and AI systems that control these robots. This research will impact key industries such as manufacturing, transportation, defense, agriculture, advanced medical devices, and automation technologies. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in 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,



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress