

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3302

May 2, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Research of Emerging and Converging Wireless Technologies Project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Wireless Research Center of North Carolina, located at 3331 Heritage Trade Drive, Suite 101, Wake Forest, NC 27587. The funding would be used for the acquisition of new equipment to expand existing research and testing capabilities to evaluate a broader range of rapidly emerging wireless technologies and networks, with an emphasis on the integration of government, commercial, and proprietary technologies.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will position the Wireless Research Center of North Carolina (WRC) to support opportunities more effectively across a broad range of activities with commercial organizations and federal agencies (including DoD, DHS, DoT, FAA, and NOAA). The WRC facility in Wake Forest has several anechoic chambers, shielded rooms, portable wireless network towers, and supporting test equipment that is accredited through A2LA 17025 and CTIA that perform highly specialized active communications testing and passive antenna system testing. In 2023, the WRC was selected by DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) to participate in its BRIDGES (Bringing Classified Innovation to Defense and Government Systems) Program. This funding will allow the WRC to maximize technological advances and economic development impacts that can be realized through opportunities presented by the WRC's DARPA BRIDGES participation.

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.

Very truly yours,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress