



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Rochester Market + The Graham project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Rochester, located at 265 E. Second Street, Rochester, MI 48307. The project aims to create an inclusive community space by expanding the Downtown Rochester Farmers' Market and establishing The Graham, an indoor market and event venue. It emphasizes accessibility, sustainability, and social connection, with features like accessible infrastructure, greening elements, and diverse programming.

The initiative honors Rochester's history while supporting local businesses and fostering relationships within the community. The Market + The Graham will serve as a central gathering place with both active and passive elements, enhancing the downtown area's appeal for residents, workers, and visitors from surrounding regions. Additionally, partnerships with organizations like the Rochester Hills Museum aim to educate and enrich the community about its farming heritage. With improved transportation options and diverse programming, the project seeks to make Downtown Rochester a vibrant destination for all.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it enhances the Farmers Market to provide fresh food and produce, particularly benefiting vulnerable populations using EBT cards, while also creating a universally designed space for accessibility.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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 "John James".

John James  
Member of Congress