



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

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez AI Research Center Phase II in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, located at 259 Norte Blvd. Alfonso Valdés Cobián Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, 00681. The funding will build and expand state-of-the-art classroom, research lab, and training spaces for AI, cybersecurity and quantum computing workforce development.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it establishes a cutting-edge AI-driven cybersecurity research and workforce development hub that strengthens national infrastructure protection, addresses critical talent shortages, drives innovation and economic growth, and enhances U.S. technological competitiveness. 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 blue ink that reads "Pablo J. Hernández".

Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress