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The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 19, 2026

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Santa Maria Real-Time Information Center (RTIC) with an integrated Drone as a First Responder (DFR) Program Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is located at 110 E. Cook Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454.

The funding would be used to establish a Real-Time Information Center (RTIC) with an integrated Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program within the Santa Maria Police Department. The Department serves a population of more than 110,000 residents with 114 sworn officers and 60 professional personnel — staffing levels essentially unchanged since the late 1990s despite decades of population and business growth. The RTIC will fill that gap by integrating existing camera feeds, CAD, ALPR data, and body camera footage into a unified real-time operational platform. The integrated DFR component will add five drone platforms capable of deploying automatically from fixed docking stations upon dispatch, arriving on scene in approximately 90 seconds — compared to the current 3-to-4-minute average officer response time.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will support public safety.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)).

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 "S.O. Carbajal".

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress