

DIANA HARSHBARGER  
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington DC, 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$1,554,500 in funding for Advancing Small Manufacturer Adoption of Smart Technologies in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services, located at 2112 North Roan Street, Suite 610, Johnson City, TN 37601. The funding would be used to assist small and mid-sized manufacturers in Tennessee's First Congressional District evaluate automation and AI solutions, provide onsite technical assistance and implementation support. This funding would also facilitate the purchase and application of relevant manufacturing technology and equipment for small manufacturers. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will improve domestic manufacturing processes, enhance resiliency in domestic supply chains, and support the establishment and retention of high-quality advanced manufacturing jobs across Northeast Tennessee.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 272 of title 15, United States Code -- to assist industry in the development of technology and procedures needed to improve quality, to modernize manufacturing processes, to ensure product reliability, manufacturability, functionality, and cost-effectiveness, and to facilitate the more rapid commercialization, especially by small- and medium-sized companies throughout the United States, of products based on new scientific discoveries in fields such as automation, electronics, advanced materials, biotechnology, and optical technologies.

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 "Diana Harshbarger".

Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress