

LATEEFAH SIMON
12TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**
Subcommittee on
Health Care and Financial Services
Subcommittee on
Federal Law Enforcement
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
Subcommittee on
Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and
Workforce Development
Subcommittee on Oversight,
Investigations, and Regulations



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509

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May 21, 2025

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the East Bay Regional Fire Training Facility in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Berkeley, located at 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704.

The funding would be used to construct the East Bay Regional Fire Training Facility, which would serve Western Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties' first responders with a facility that will become an Accredited Local Academy through the State Fire Marshal. This project will also serve as a workforce training center that will enhance the regional ability to recruit and train diverse members of the community for careers in public safety at a time when recruitment of emergency responders is extremely challenging.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the fire service has historically under-resourced internal personnel, equipment, facilities and budgets for personnel development and training. Supporting a multi-county, multiple city consortium increases the number of fire personnel to be trained, particularly in a region that has experienced so many natural disasters.

The stakeholders are also all responsible for the same record-keeping, curriculum design and delivery with personnel duplicating efforts across the region. Physically co-mingling personnel and resources would provide efficiency of scale with an added benefit of facilitating better coordination between municipalities when responding to larger incidents or regional disasters.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1) and U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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, reading "Lateefah Simon". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lateefah" and the last name "Simon" clearly distinguishable.

Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress