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**Congress of the United States**  
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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Connecticut Manufacturing & Technology (CCAT) CommUNITY eCommons in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, located at 222 Pitkin Street, Suite 101, East Hartford CT 06108.

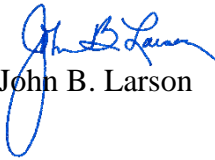
The funding would be used to reinvent the workforce talent pipeline for small businesses post-COVID-19 and provide centralized and “common” resources that will reinvest in workers and small businesses, build public/private partnerships, incorporate collaborative strategies that change systems, and develop a sustainable job creation/job retention ecosystem for small businesses. In addition, this approach will focus on broadening participation within Connecticut communities to help jumpstart an equitable recovery for Black and Latino communities and small businesses, among the hardest hit by the pandemic.

The focus areas are: Manufacturing-centric jobseeker/employer database; A “career match initiative” linking pre-qualified job seekers to small business employment; A virtual meeting place to facilitate workforce development and provide industry resources to small businesses; and common resources located at the CCAT’s training centers that will facilitate the adoption of leading technologies, such as Industry 4.0 (automation) and digital manufacturing capabilities that will assist Connecticut’s small business manufacturers remain competitive post-pandemic.

One particular emphasis will be working with large manufacturers in CT to strengthen their CT-based supply chain, which includes numerous small and medium-sized businesses. Through upskilling the supply chain’s current workforce, providing training for dislocated workers, and providing small businesses access to utilize Connecticut’s training centers to incorporate leading-edge technologies, CCAT will focus on enhancing the competitiveness of critical manufacturing supply chains in CT.. An additional focus area for the Connecticut Manufacturing & Technology CommUNITY eCommons project will be providing services to small businesses and Connecticut workers related to the new clean energy projects we expect to come online in CT in the next few years, providing tremendous opportunities in the post-pandemic recovery in Connecticut.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

  
John B. Larson