

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0605

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$1,938,133 in funding for the Aerospace and Biotechnology Research Equipment Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, located at 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. The funding would be used to acquire equipment that includes a High Force Dynamic Mechanical Analyzer, a High Temperature GPC system, a MicroCT system, a metal 3D printer, a 3D scanner, a confocal microscope, microscope maintenance and software, and an ultra-high resolution spectroscopy system for the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Labs and the BioFrontiers Lab on campus.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this equipment will pave the way for both undergraduate and graduate students to conduct research for federal agencies in addition to helping students effectively enter the workforce. As foreign adversaries like China and Russia are using research and manufacturing to increase their capabilities, we must ensure that our talent case has the best tools at their disposal to learn how to counter and exceed our adversaries and promote American ingenuity. Students would be trained to use the same classes of equipment, tools and workflows currently deployed across aerospace, defense, advanced manufacturing, and biotechnology companies who would employ them and similar entities that are conducting federal research. Each of these pieces of equipment is near to or at the end of its usable life and replacement of this equipment will put students in the best position to conduct effective research and to succeed and prepare for their careers in the community.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 272 of title 15, United States Code which support standards-related research and technology development.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Jeff Crank  
Member of Congress