

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1805**

March 19, 2026

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Market Ready Rice: Quality Standards that Strengthen Louisiana's Competitiveness Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, located at 101 J. Norman Efferson Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

The project will create a statewide, industry ready, measurement and verification system to improve rice quality throughout Louisiana. The funds will be used to acquire scientific equipment to support standards development, provide independent validation services for benchmarking, and implement minor facility improvements to ensure optimal equipment installation and full utilization.

This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it creates much needed industry standards that will benefit the entire Louisiana rice supply chain from grower to miller to consumer. This project will create a stronger platform for rural economic growth and ultimately help Louisiana's agricultural industry compete more effectively in the global marketplace.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under Section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

I request you give this project every consideration, consistent with all rules and regulations. Thank you for your attention to this request. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julia Letlow, Ph.D.  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS