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March 19, 2021

## Dear Colleague:

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, I released the framework to govern the Member request process for the upcoming appropriations cycle. While that establishes a limited approach to requesting funding community projects in the fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills, it did not envision limiting which projects Member can demonstrate support for. I have listened closely to Members' feedback and instructed the Committee staff to provide <u>updated guidance</u> to clarify this important point.

To that end, any Member is welcome to sign onto a group letter lending support for a project. However, for Committee purposes, if you do not submit the project to the Member database as one of your 10 Community Project Funding requests, the Committee will not consider that project as an official request. For the project to be considered by the Committee, a Member (either one of the signers or another Member) must submit a formal request in the database where it will count as one of their 10 requests. In addition, in order to ensure the highest ethical standards in the community project funding process, Members should also sign a financial disclosure certification for the project regardless of whether it is officially requested in the database.

Further, this means that if the project is ultimately funded in one of the bills, the name of the Member with the formal request in the database will be included next to the project in the Committee report for transparency. Any Member who does not submit the request as one of their 10 projects will not be listed next to the project in the respective Committee report. Very simply, signing a group letter supporting a project without submitting the project in the database stops short of a formal request, and the <u>updated Committee guidance</u> on the Appropriations Committee website now reflects this.

The process is intended to be an open, transparent and iterative one. This should be true in how you approach your conversations with communities in the district. And I hope this important clarification serves an example to you of how we can work together in this process to best serve our constituents.

If you have questions concerning the Committee's requirements, please contact Jason Gray with the Full Committee Staff.

Sincerely,

Rosa L. DeLauro

Posa Lockano

Chair, House Appropriations Committee