

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

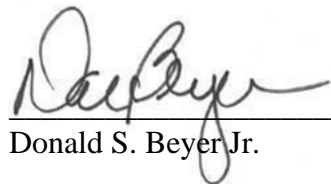
I am requesting funding for “Energy Self-Sufficient Emergency Shelter System” in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Alexandria, located at 301 King Street, Suite 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314.

This request is for funding to support a back-up energy system for its emergency shelter. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it improves community readiness and coastal resilience in the face of coastal hazards. Backup capabilities will allow the site that serves as the emergency shelter to “island” from the broader electricity grid for up to 72 hours in extreme weather conditions. While the primary purpose will be to provide resiliency, it will also provide economic value by reducing the amount of electricity needed to be purchased from the utility year-round, especially during peak hours. In general, emergency shelters play a critical role in providing refuge and safety during times of crisis, particularly for vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and individuals with disabilities. It is imperative that these shelters have backup electricity sources and be resilient in the face of natural disasters or other emergencies. Backup power ensures that essential services like lighting, heating or cooling, medical equipment, and communication systems remain operational, even if the primary power grid fails. It can mean the difference between life and death, especially for those who rely on medical devices or medications that require refrigeration. Additionally, during extreme weather events, access to electricity can provide comfort and security for individuals who may already be experiencing heightened stress and anxiety. Thus, an investment in resilient infrastructure is not only a matter of practicality, but also a safeguard to the well-being and survival of vulnerable communities.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

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

Sincerely,


Donald S. Beyer Jr.