



RANDY WEBER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT, TEXAS

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515-6015

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515-6015

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright:

I am requesting funding for the development of a genomics-driven breeding program for oysters in Texas in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Texas A&M AgriLife Research, located at 10345 Highway 44, Corpus Christi, Texas 78406-1939. The funding would be used for oyster research on the Texas Gulf Coast. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because aquaculture is one of the fastest growing agricultural sectors globally and is expected to be the primary source of growth in seafood production in the future. Texas A&M AgriLife Research is well-positioned to address this need. The agency is one of the nation's largest agricultural research agencies and has an array of experience with genetic improvement of a large variety of plants and animal species.

This project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

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

Sincerely,

RANDY K. WEBER

RW:hc