

LIZZIE FLETCHER
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, CLIMATE,
AND GRID SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
AND TECHNOLOGY
REGIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Houston ISD (HISD) Planetary and Space Exploration Education Project in fiscal year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is William Marsh Rice University, located at 6100 Main Street, Houston, TX 77005.

If awarded, the funding would be used for a space and planetary science engagement-focused pilot that leverages Rice University's STEM education relationship with HISD and local partners to strengthen the community's pipeline of students exploring planetary sciences and related careers by engaging them in interwoven programming at elementary through high school levels.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it meets a gap in educational programming left by relatively few HISD astronomy teachers, giving students limited exposure to space and planetary science and leaving important regional industries and employers—including NASA Johnson Space Center—insufficient local workforce to support NASA's planned missions and the emerging regional commercial space industry.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 20102 of title 51, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lizzie Fletcher".

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress