



April 30, 2021

The Hon. Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

As you draft fiscal year 2022 appropriations legislation, I write to request consideration of the following Community Project Funding request submitted to my office:

Downtown Silver Spring Place-Based Economic Revitalization and Workforce Development Initiative

Amount Requested: \$300,000

Recipient: Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation

Recipient Address: 101 Monroe Street, 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

Purpose: The Downtown Silver Spring Place-based Economic Revitalization and Workforce Development will strengthen the economy for one of the district's critical business centers, downtown Silver Spring, which has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and economic downturn, and is currently enduring high office vacancy rates (of nearly 20 percent), decreased visitors and foot traffic, and increases in nuisance crimes. The project will upgrade and enhance downtown Silver Spring's sidewalks and streetscapes. The project will position downtown Silver Spring to create a new economic identity as a climate industry corridor, which has the potential to have a significant and long-term impact on the area's economic recovery and growth. The project will partner with Montgomery College-Silver Spring on training and apprenticeship opportunities for careers in climate industries. The project will also support one of downtown Silver Spring's and Montgomery County's growth industries: craft food and beverage manufacturing. The project is the signature community economic development initiative of the recently formed Montgomery County Commerce Cabinet, which was established by Executive Order on June 9, 2020 and brings together 14 county agencies that have a role in supporting a growing, sustainable, and inclusive local economy.

Justification: This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it is expected to: help jumpstart economic recovery from the pandemic, while inviting residents and visitors to explore downtown Silver Spring on foot or bike; increase business activity for local, small businesses in Montgomery County while creating good, local jobs; bring together a host of County agencies in a unique and innovative place-based community economic development collaboration. This project is being coordinated with the County's new Climate Action Plan.

I thank you for your full and fair consideration of these requests. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project, and I have made this request publicly available on my website at the following address: <https://raskin.house.gov/appropriations-requests>.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress