

MADELEINE DEAN
4TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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May 23, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
2207 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Pottstown Anti-Poverty and Workforce Development Initiative: TRec District Phase 1 Completion Project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority, located at 104 West Main Street, Suite 2, Norristown, PA, 19401.

The funding would be used to create safe, well-lit ADA-accessible connections within the TRec District, finish access needs to enable the Steel River Station to open, and repair equipment necessary for the Colebrookdale Railroad trains to reach Pottstown. This work includes: installing lighting, cameras, and other security features to protect public areas including the Steel River Station's public restrooms /changing area for the regional trail network, information center, and train station; replacing the dark, drug, vandalism, and mischief-prone area between the Station and King Street with a new, well-lit, ADA-accessible safe connection to a bus stop serving Pottstown Area Rapid Transit, SEPTA, Pottstown Carousel and MiniGolf, and the National Register-listed Pottsgrove Manor historic site (home of early iron pioneer, John Potts); and refurbishing equipment to allow Colebrookdale train service to Pottstown.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project proposed for completion funding was custom designed to end a generations-long cycle of persistent poverty in an especially troubled, but uncommonly potential-laden part of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Consistently ranked among the poorest and most crime-ridden Qualified Census Tracts (QCT's) in the state, Pottstown's Memorial Park is also one of the region's most underutilized, highest-potential assets. The Montgomery County Workforce Development Board cites the absence of good-paying jobs for the plight of the current population around the Park; 18.8% of its residents live in poverty (2019 ACS data), as compared to 11.4% for the U.S. and 12% for Pennsylvania as a whole. Median household income (\$50,331) is 20% below the \$62,843 US average. Nearly 1 in 5 live below the poverty line—40% higher than the state rate. The number living 50% below the poverty level is over double the state average.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Madeleine Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress