

MADELEINE DEAN
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Congress of the United States
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May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1306 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Promoting our PA History and Folk Culture by Restoring the Sharadin Farmstead at Kutztown University in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Kutztown University, located at 1500 Kutztown Road, Kutztown, PA, 19530.

The funding would be used to perform structural repairs to restore the 169-year-old barn at the Sharadin Farmstead and provide necessary maintenance to surrounding buildings (e.g., historic schoolhouse). To ensure the preservation of these resources and promote greater accessibility, restoration efforts will address the significant structural issues that make it currently unsafe to allow visitors inside the barn. Repairs to the barn's timber frame, replacement of the failing roof, excavation of the barn bank, and repair of the foundation wall will allow new events and programming to take place inside the barn. Without restoration, the Center's vital community assets are at risk of irreversible decay. This deterioration will diminish tourism and rob future generations of valuable educational and cultural experiences. Investing in the Farmstead will merge smart economic development with educational enrichment that celebrates Pennsylvania's folk heritage.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because The Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, established by Kutztown University (KU) in 1991, is a research hub that preserves the Pennsylvania Germans' folklife, history, and language. Located at the historic Sharadin Farmstead on KU's campus, the Center offers public access to a research library, cultural exhibitions, historic buildings, and seasonal events. The Center boosts the local economy through events and programs that reach 100,000 individuals annually, academic engagement, community involvement, and partnerships with cultural organizations. With improved accessibility and repairs, more visitors and community members will access the Center's resources, deepening their appreciation for Pennsylvania's unique folk culture. Also, more K-12 school groups and universities will visit the Center for unique learning opportunities, and KU students will gain hands-on experience with documenting the restoration, enhancing their professional growth.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 USC 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 style with a prominent initial "M".

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress