

KWEISI MFUME

7th DISTRICT, MARYLAND

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOUTH AND
CENTRAL ASIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM**

RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

March 27, 2026

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
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

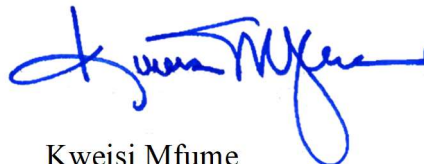
Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the UMBC Outdoor Drone Testing and Education Facility project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, located at 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, Maryland, 21250. The funding would be used for establishment of a dedicated, multi-modal drone test facility to advance research, testing, and workforce development in autonomous systems, sensing, and resilient cyber-physical infrastructure. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a critical national gap: the lack of controlled, repeatable, and regulation-compliant environments for evaluating next-gen aerial and ground robots under realistic conditions, and it will enhance UMBC's efforts as a key contributor to Maryland's technology workforce pipeline.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 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,



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

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