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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMISSION ON CHINA

CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

www.chrissmith.house.gov

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am writing to request Community Project Funding for critical repairs for the **Senior Public Housing Building** in Belmar, N.J. in my congressional district. The federal funding will pay for much-needed improvements to the apartment homes of low-income senior citizens in the small town of the Borough of Belmar and is expected cost is \$676,000.

The Senior Public Housing rehabilitation project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it is in keeping with the stated goals of the Community Development Block Grant program by meeting a compelling local need to provide public housing rehabilitation for senior citizens. The building, located on 710 8th Avenue in Belmar, was built in 1966 and is the only low-income housing facility in the town. This program has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Chapter 42 U.S.C. Section 5305(a)(4).

The Borough Council is unified in its strong support of this funding to carry out many long overdue repairs to the building, which is home to fifty senior and disabled residents who have met the qualifications for assistance through the Belmar Housing Authority.

Earlier this month, the governing body, the Belmar Borough Council, passed a resolution declaring the structure, which was built over 50 years ago in 1966, in dire need of repair and renovation. Mayor Gerald Buccafusco, in his letter included in this submission along with the Council resolution, details how the funding will be used, including bringing up to code the

unreliable elevator damaged in a power outage and repairing water-damaged interior walls. The town, which has limited resources, is nonetheless committed to match up to 20 percent of the cost.

Several non-profit, non-political, nonsectarian organizations that support local community programs and people needing assistance strongly recommended this project. In its letter, the Belmar Women's Club wrote vehemently that "the issues of deterioration of the building have been heartbreaking to see... the safety concerns for our residents in that building are many."

An attached letter of support from a concerned civic group states: "The safety concerns of the deteriorated brick facade, water damage, continued elevator issues pose an urgent safety concern for these low-income seniors and disabled Belmar residents." Other non-profit, charitable, community organizations such as Belmar Cares, the Belmar Women's Club, and Circle of Friends expressed similar safety concerns and the urgent need for upgrades and repairs.

This important project also has the support of all the state legislators of the 30th Legislative District: Sen. Robert Singer and Assemblymen Sean Kean and Edward Thompson.

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

It is my belief that federal funding on this project will truly be well spent, and lead to a significant benefit to the Belmar community for many years.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress