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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro

I am requesting funding for Philly Schools Tree Canopy in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the School District of Philadelphia, located at 440 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19106-4015. The funding would be used to initiate a program to increase tree canopy's around all school campuses to 30%. This effort is to equitably provide healthy, safe school environments to all students. Schools with low canopy communities will be targeted for school yard and walking route tree planting efforts. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Philadelphia urban forest removes an estimated 513 tons of air pollution per year, a \$19 million annual value. Neighborhoods with fewer trees have higher rates of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary (COPD) disease. Reducing pollution and increasing the tree canopy improves air quality and respiratory health.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely.



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress