April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Mt. Carroll STEA²M Hub in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, located at 352 Henry Administration Building, MC-350, 506 South Wright Street, Urbana, IL 61801.

The funding would be used for a partnership with West Carroll School District and the University of Illinois Extension to develop a STEA²M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Agriculture and Math) hub in Mt. Carroll, IL. The space will include “maker space” with computers, digital and 3-D printers, sewing machines, art supplies and more, for classroom instruction and after school and on weekends. The project will also include renovation and repair of an onsite greenhouse, which will allow horticulture/food production to be part of the educational mix (STEA²M includes agriculture).

This project will benefit rural Carroll County youth by providing experience and exposure to STEA²M skills that are increasingly important to the workplace. Maker Spaces combine access to a variety of technology and software tools in an enriching, supportive, creative environment that encourages creativity, entrepreneurship, group problem solving, and interdisciplinary approaches. These create an experiential base for Carroll County youth to support future education and career pathways. The STEAM Hub will be accessible evenings and weekends as well as during the school day.

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

Sincerely,

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress