

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0530

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, U.S. Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Modular Fire Training Complex project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Burbank located at 275 East Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA 91502. The funding would be used to replace the Burbank Fire Department's existing drill tower with a modular facility to be used for fire training.

Currently, the Burbank Fire Department utilizes a four-story concrete drill tower located at the Fire Training Center for fire training. This tower serves as a noncombustible structure where flammable materials are placed inside to simulate the high-heat and intense smoke environments that firefighters encounter during an emergency. The complex allows for specialized training, such as search and rescue, confined space exercises, and roof operations. However, the current training tower was originally built in 1950 and has experienced years of fire exposure damage to the concrete building, creating safety concerns regarding the integrity of the structure. The antiquated design further limits training opportunities and contributes to pollution concerns due to the lack of clean fuel options during fire training.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would replace the old and overused concrete tower with a new prefabricated, modular steel tower, which will enable more advanced flame control and heat monitoring systems that allow for enhanced firefighter safety during training. The new design also includes smoke evacuation and rapid-cooling systems as well as cleaner fuels to minimize air quality impacts in the surrounding neighborhood. The adjacent detached storage will be used for simulated commercial or large area searches. The project will support improved firefighter training, ultimately enhancing the health and safety of Burbank citizens and the surrounding communities.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by U.S.C. 5305(a)(4). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress