

ERIC SORENSEN

17TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION,
RESEARCH, AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

1314 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1317
(202) 225-5905

423 17TH STREET, SUITE 201
ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201
(309) 786-3406

403-1/2 NE JEFFERSON STREET
PEORIA, IL 61603
(309) 621-7070

401 E. STATE STREET, GROUND FLOOR
ROCKFORD, IL 61104
(779) 513-4960

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Bio-Chemistry equipment for Illinois State University's STEM Laboratory Facility in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Illinois State University located at 100 N University Street, Normal, IL 61761. The funding would be used for the purchase the following: 4 Biological safety cabinets — Class I/II/III biosafety level, 4 Laminar flow clean benches for sterile work not involving biohazards, 2 Autoclaves, 6 Glassware washers and dryers, 8 CO2 incubators, shaking, and refrigerated incubators, 8 Refrigeration — -20°C freezers, -80°C ultra-low freezers, 4°C cold rooms, walk-in cold rooms, 12 Centrifuges — benchtop, floor-standing, ultracentrifuges (require vibration-isolated floors), 12 Microscopes — brightfield, fluorescence, confocal, electron microscopy (EM requires special rooms), and 2 Spectrophotometers — UV-Vis, plate readers, fluorometers. This is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars because the project will strengthen the regional workforce and support economic development in Illinois and ensure our global competitiveness in the STEM field.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with, and supportive of, NIST's mission and aligned with one or more of the functions and activities described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress