

# Congress of the United States

STACEY E. PLASKETT  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

House of Representatives

2059 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the **Emergency Response and Community Resilience Facility** project in fiscal year 2027. The public entity project sponsor to receive funding for this project is the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA), located in the U.S. Virgin Islands at 83MJ+Q8 St Thomas, USVI 00802. The anticipated location of the project is Enighed, Cruz Bay Quarter, St. John, VI 00830.

The requested funding would be used by WAPA to construct a resilient, multi-purpose community infrastructure facility on Authority-owned property on St. John. St. John's geographic isolation, marine transportation dependency, and repeated severe weather events — including outages in February and March 2026 exceeding 40 hours — have left residents without critical emergency resources. The facility will serve three core functions: providing public access to electricity and emergency shelter; serving as an on-island emergency staging hub for secure storage and pre-positioning of restoration tools and equipment; and functioning as an Emergency Restoration Command Post and Alternative Emergency Operations Site for VITEMA, enabling faster interagency response and power restoration. The facility will be constructed with disaster-resilient design and backup power generation. This funding is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will strengthen disaster preparedness, provide publicly accessible community resources to residents of St. John, and accelerate economic recovery in tourism and retail, on an island uniquely exposed to severe weather events.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S. Code §§ 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and 5305(a)(5).

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

Sincerely,



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress