

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 **UVI RTPark Youth Agripreneur Farm and Economic Development Center** in fiscal year 2027. The public entity project sponsor to receive funding for this project is the University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park (RTPark), located in the U.S. Virgin Islands at 64 West Palm Drive, Kingshill, VI 00850. The anticipated location of the project is Parcels 5-E and 5-F, Prince Quarter, St. Croix, VI 00850.

The requested funding would be used by RTPark to develop and construct a multi-use agricultural workforce training center and community infrastructure facility on a 25.44-acre RTPark-owned site on St. Croix. The U.S. Virgin Islands imports an estimated 90 to 95 percent of its food, and the 2023 USDA Census of Agriculture found that 79 percent of USVI farmers are age 55 or older and fewer than 1 percent are under 35. This funding is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will create permanent community infrastructure that directly addresses the Territory's most urgent agricultural vulnerabilities, establish a structured pathway for beginning farmers, place underutilized farmland into active production, and strengthen local and regional food supply chains for the residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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