

# Congress of the United States

STACEY E. PLASKETT  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

House of Representatives

2059 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the **La Reine Farmers' Market Enhancement Project** in fiscal year 2027. The public entity project sponsor to receive funding for this project is the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture, located in the U.S. Virgin Islands at 1 Estate Lower Love, Kingshill, St. Croix, VI 00850. The anticipated location of the project is La Reine Farmers Market, P6HG+Q7W, Route 75, St Croix 00820.

The requested funding of \$500,000 would be used by the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture (VIDA) to enhance the La Reine Farmers' Market in Estate La Reine on St. Croix. For more than sixty years, the La Reine market has served as a vital commercial hub for the island's farmers and fishermen, centrally located to attract residents from every community on St. Croix. Due to its open-air architectural design and 24-hour accessibility, the facility has become increasingly difficult to maintain and secure, resulting in misuse, unsanitary conditions, and safety concerns. VIDA, in partnership with the Virgin Islands Office of Historic Preservation and local architects and engineers, has completed an architectural and design plan for a historically sensitive fence enclosure to secure the facility during non-operational hours. This funding is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will restore a safe, functional market environment that directly supports St. Croix agricultural and fishing producers, advances food security, and strengthens a community institution serving the territory for over sixty years.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

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