

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 **Sanderilla Thomas Bungalow 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 Rothschild Francis Market Square, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00802.

The requested funding of \$500,000 would be used by the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture (VIDA) to enhance the Sanderilla Thomas Bungalow Farmers' Market at Rothschild Francis Market Square on St. Thomas. The market, which appears on maps as early as 1836 and features a cast iron bungalow dating to approximately 1904, has served as a vital commercial outlet for local farmers and a community gathering place for nearly two centuries. Due to its open-air architectural design, the facility has become increasingly difficult to maintain and secure, resulting in misuse, unsanitary conditions, and recurring safety incidents. 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 appropriate 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 USVI agricultural producers, advances food security, and preserves a culturally significant historic facility.

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