

RUSSELL FRY
7TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON THE WEAPONIZATION
OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4007

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May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Enhancement of Specialty Crop Research Capabilities Project in Florence, SC at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. This project is located at 2200 East Pocket Road, Florence, SC 29506. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center.

The mission of the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center (REC) is to foster economic stability and development by conducting research and education programs focused on traditional and new plant-based systems appropriate to the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. The REC is a 2,300-acre tract of land situated in Florence and Darlington counties.

This funding will allow Clemson University to purchase and install cooling units, heating units, environmental controllers, exhaust fans, specialized growth lighting, automated irrigation systems, security cameras, fiber optic internet connectivity, retractable shade cloths, fertilization units and benches. This project would contribute to the development of specialty crops that are better adapted to the Southeast and that have improved disease, heat, weed and insect pest tolerance. This project will make faster advances in creating solutions tailored to the needs of the Seventh Congressional District of South Carolina and help improve outcomes for agricultural producers in the region.

The project has a federal nexus because it is authorized in 7 U.S. Code section 2550. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community funding project in the FY25 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Russell Fry
Member of Congress