

DANIEL WEBSTER
11TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0911

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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a Digital Twin Manufacturing Testbed at Florida State University (FSU) in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Florida State University, located at 222 S. Copeland Street, Tallahassee, FL 32306.

The funding would be used to purchase a world-class digital twin manufacturing testbed that integrates advanced engineering infrastructure, technical expertise, and workforce training to accelerate technology maturation and new product development. The testbed will enable rapid iteration from design through pilot-scale production and validation, supporting innovation, job creation, and regional economic growth. By leveraging Florida State University's strengths in digital twins, AI-enabled optimization, materials, additive manufacturing, and aerospace research and education, the project will provide a shared, end-to-end engineering environment - a "one-stop shop" - that enhances competitiveness and supports Florida's strategic priorities in national security and economic development.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because investing in this technology is critical to ensuring the United States is able to keep pace with China and others who are leveraging technology, including artificial intelligence, to improve their manufacturing output and innovation. These state-of-the-art system will benefit and impact America nationwide, including our national security, manufacturing industry, and science, to name a few.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress