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JOHN GARAMENDI  
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March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chairman  
The Honorable Henry Cuellar, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairmen Cole and Amodei and Ranking Members DeLauro and Cuellar:

I respectfully request funding for the East Richmond Heights Shaded Fuel Break Phase I and II Project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Contra Costa County, located at 1025 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553.

This Community Project Funding would be used for a critical fuel reduction effort within a low-income community and the West Contra Costa Wildland Urban Interface area. The convergence of dense vegetation and the specific topographical conditions prevalent in the area currently poses an unacceptable and elevated wildfire risk to residents, essential infrastructure, and nearby natural resources.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would significantly enhance community safety and optimize the operational response zone for mutual aid crews during a large-scale wildfire event. The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 203 of the *Stafford Act* (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the *Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018*.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project and neither does my immediate family. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Garamendi".

JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress