

DAVID J. TAYLOR  
2ND DISTRICT, OHIO

HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE

HOUSE COMMITTEE  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3502**

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the SAFE Unit Expansion Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Clermont County Sheriff's Office, located at 4470 State Route 222, Batavia, Ohio 45103.

The funding would be used for expanding the SAFE Unit into a regional digital forensic, crime gun intelligence, and investigative analytical laboratory service Ohio's Second Congressional District and surrounding jurisdictions. This project will transform the existing county-based SAFE Unit into a centralized regional public safety resource capable of supporting nearly one million residents, nearly 5x the current service population.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because, over the past decade, Clermont County has experienced a 30% increase in felony crime and, over the past five years, homicides have surged by 322%. This surge in crime demonstrates the urgent need for advanced digital forensic processing and coordinated crime gun intelligence across the region. By centralizing advanced forensic capabilities into a single regional hub, this project maximizes taxpayer value, reduces duplicative spending across agencies, accelerates investigations, and improves crime clearance rates.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(B)(9)).

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

Sincerely,



Congressman David Taylor  
Ohio's Second Congressional District