

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE  
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES



**James A. Himes**  
**Congress of the United States**  
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May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

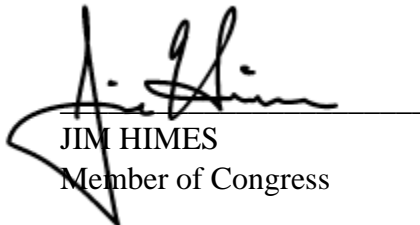
I am requesting funding for the Planetarium & Astronomy Center project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Stamford Museum & Nature Center, located at 39 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford, CT 06903.

The funding would be used to launch its Planetarium & Astronomy Center. Funding will be used to design and implement an astronomy and science curriculum and public programming, purchase a Starball Projector and Laser System, and acquire 4k Planetarium shows, interactive exhibits, and observational tools. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project aligns with NASA's strategic plan to bolster STEM education in the United States to ensure the next generation of explorers have the skills needed to continue pursuing NASA's mission. The opportunities and access offered by the planetarium and observatory will cultivate the next generation of scientists and engineers and support Connecticut's growing "aerospace alley" and industrial base.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 20102 of title 51, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Himes", written over a horizontal line.

JIM HIMES  
Member of Congress