

JOHN R. MOOLENAAR
2ND DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

CHAIRMAN
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COMPETITION BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE
COMMUNIST PARTY

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NATIONAL SECURITY, STATE DEPARTMENT
AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Congress of the United States
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March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the SCBA Safety Equipment Replacement Project in fiscal year 2027.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Village of Shepherd, located at 251 West Wright Avenue, Shepard, Michigan, 48883. The funding would be used to procure new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) air packs and associated components to ensure firefighters have safe, reliable respiratory protection during emergency operations. This investment will restore full operational readiness and ensure compliance with current NFPA and OSHA standards.

This request is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it replace the community's expired SCBA units, which have exceeded their manufacturer-designated service life and no longer meet current safety and performance standards. These air packs are mission-critical life-safety equipment required for interior firefighting, rescue operations, hazardous materials incidents, and responses in oxygen-deficient or toxic environments. Continued reliance on expired equipment places firefighters at unnecessary risk and exposes the community to reduced emergency response capability. The department operates on a limited municipal budget and does not have sufficient local funding to independently replace its full SCBA inventory.

The project has a Federal Nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



JOHN MOOLENAAR
Member of Congress