

VICENTE GONZALEZ
34TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4315

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May 23, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a Cold Storage Facility at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, located at 1 W. University Boulevard, Brownsville, Texas 77500.

This funding will be used to retrofit a building to a cold storage facility that will be used to support the development of a seafood workforce training and logistics hub at the new UTRGV Port Isabel Marine Ecosystems Research Facility. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the facility because it directly addresses the challenges Texas Gulf Shrimpers are facing through workforce training. Specifically, the facility will be used for instructional and demonstration purposes, as a training site for UTRGV students and shrimpers to gain experience with smart temperature monitoring systems and FDA-compliant seafood handling procedures. These skills will strengthen workforce readiness and food safety practices across the industry.

This project has a federal nexus as it is for the same purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress