

March 30, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$5,500,000 in funding for the University of Florida Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence (CAAI) in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Institute of Food and Agricultural Science Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (IFAS/GCREC) located at 14625 CR 672, Wimauma, FL 33598.

The funding would be used to purchase equipment that will be used in the development of artificial intelligence (AI) - powered machinery prototypes and technology to address agricultural challenges related to labor, weather, and the environment. Novel research conducted at the CAAI will support innovative AI tools and modernize manufacturing processes to autonomously accomplish farming practices that currently require manual labor.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because under section 272 of title 15, United States Code, the CAAI will conduct advanced applied research and develop technology to support the Florida agricultural industry and sustain our domestic food supply.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress