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9TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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March 27, 2026

Chairman Tom Cole
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

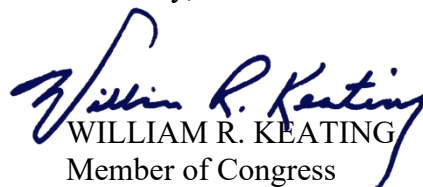
Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the AI-Based Port Radar System project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the New Bedford Port Authority located at 123 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740. This funding will be used to allow the New Bedford Port Authority to purchase equipment that will significantly enhance a waterways traffic monitoring and management system in the Port of New Bedford by providing continuous, automated detection and analysis of vessel movements in real time. Using machine learning algorithms, the system could distinguish between vessel types—such as commercial fishing vessels, cargo ships, tugboats, and recreational craft—and track their speed, heading, and behavior patterns even in low visibility, fog, or nighttime conditions common in Buzzards Bay. By integrating radar data with AIS and port management software, the AI system could identify potential collision risks, congestion points, or unauthorized vessel activity and alert harbor authorities immediately. This capability would improve navigational safety, support more efficient vessel scheduling and docking operations, and provide port operators with predictive analytics to anticipate traffic surges during peak fishing seasons. This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it supports the most valuable fishing port in the nation by strengthening maritime safety, improving operational efficiency, and enhancing situational awareness for harbor masters, port security, and emergency response personnel.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 46 USC 54301.

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

Sincerely,


WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress