

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0905

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

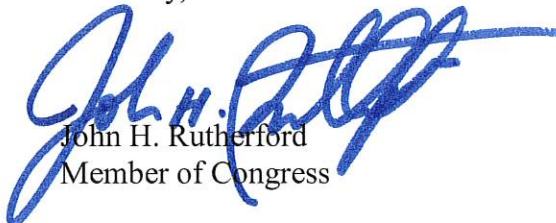
Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for a 3D Metal Printer in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of North Florida, located at 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224. The funding would be used to purchase a 3D Metal Printer for research being conducted by School of Engineering's Advanced Manufacturing Engineering program.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would support research in the advanced manufacturing of metal components produced through 3D printing. As industries like aerospace and biomedical engineering increasingly move from traditional casting and forging to additive manufacturing, the resulting parts do not always have the same strength or durability. Funding this project would allow researchers to study how different metals and printing techniques affect the internal structure of printed parts and how those changes influence their performance. Supporting this research would help improve the safety, reliability, and competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing in critical industries.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in 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,



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress