

VERONICA ESCOBAR
16TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515

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NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Regional Interoperable Communications Phase II Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Rio Grande Council of Governments, located at 8037 Lockheed, Ste. 100, El Paso, Texas 79925.

The funding would be used for continuing to strengthen interoperable communications across the TX 16th Congressional District by replacing end-of-life or upgrading portable radios (subscribers units) to current mission critical standards. New subscribers will meet P25 Phase 1 and Phase 2 requirements and incorporate multiband capability across VHF, UHF, and 700/800 MHz, ensuring agencies can operate effectively across diverse terrain and multi-jurisdictional ecosystems. These improvements will enable public safety agencies to communicate reliably across agencies and jurisdictions, supporting real-time, on-demand exchange of voice, data, and video through authorized radio and associated communications systems. To support secure, resilient communications, all subscriber units will include AES multikey encryption, with optional trunking features enabled where applicable. When trunking is activated, radios will support Phase 2 TDMA for improved spectral efficiency and multisystem over-the-air rekeying (OTAR) to streamline encryption management and maintain operational security during incidents.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it directly strengthens core public-safety functions, and it does so in a way that maximizes regional benefit, reduces long-term costs, and improves emergency outcomes for the public.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Escobar".

Member of Congress