Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for $339,000 in community project funding to expand a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) program offered by Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). The recipient is Des Moines Area Community College, located at 2006 S Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50023.

The DMACC Transportation Institute offers a CDL training program that serves approximately 150 students per year when able to run full classes. However, DMACC has identified current staffing and equipment needs that limit the number of individuals who may be trained. With this funding, DMACC intends to hire an additional evening CDL instructor, CDP pathway navigator, and on-site contract training instructor. Combined, the contract training instructor and evening CDL instructor are estimated to expand capacity by roughly 100 students per year. The CDL pathway navigator would be able to field 5-10 walk-ins per week and 20 calls per day from prospective students. Additionally, DMACC would use part of the funds to lease truck cabs or buy truck beds needed to train students.

Using taxpayer dollars for this project will help connect students with job opportunities, address the demand for more commercial motor vehicle operators, and work to help ease the supply chain issues driving up costs for Iowa families and businesses. According to the Iowa Workforce Development (IWD)’s Future Ready Iowa initiative, commercial motor vehicle operation has been identified as a high-demand career. IWD projects 1,160 annual job openings for Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers in the central Iowa region through the year 2028 and 6,190 per year statewide. Funding this project would allow DMACC to expand operations, train more Iowans, and help address driver shortages.

With additional staff and equipment improvements supported through this grant, DMACC will gain capacity to train additional individuals above and beyond that number. DMACC estimates that an additional 90-100 individuals could be trained with this money. Class B training is currently only provided on a very limited basis due to lack of equipment, availability of space, and lack of staff.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.