

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COMPETITION
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

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

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March 19, 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 Next-Generation Environmental Scanning Electron Microscope in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the College of William and Mary, located at 540 Landrum Drive, Williamsburg 23185.

The funding would be used to acquire and install an Environmental Scanning Electron Microscope (ESEM) at William & Mary's Integrated Science Center to expand the university's advanced imaging and materials characterization capabilities.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the new instrument will enable cutting-edge research across fields including bioengineering, environmental materials, nanotechnology, and advanced manufacturing by allowing scientists to study hydrated, non-conductive, and hybrid materials under realistic environmental conditions. The ESEM will support interdisciplinary research, strengthen the university's competitiveness for federal research funding, and provide hands-on training for students preparing to enter high-skill scientific and technical fields critical to the nation's innovation and economic competitiveness.

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 neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Wittman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress