

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

ZOE LOFGREN

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Regional Interoperable Next Generation (RING) Public Safety Radio System in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Santa Cruz County, located at 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060.

The funding would be used to construct and deploy a modern P25 Phase II public safety radio system, including system control equipment, simulcast control equipment, VHF antenna systems, county backhaul and networking equipment, and network management system equipment serving all law enforcement, fire, EMS, probation, the District Attorney's Office, and emergency management agencies countywide.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Santa Cruz County's existing radio infrastructure routinely fails in remote and mountainous terrain, causing dropped signals and limited interoperability during wildfires, search and rescue operations, and major incidents. The RING system is the product of a multi-year regional collaboration with completed needs assessment, technical coverage modeling, and a competitively awarded contract. Its modular structure ensures every funded component delivers standalone operational value. The system will serve all 262,000 residents of Santa Cruz County and directly improve emergency response in a high wildfire-risk region, including rural dead zones in CA-18.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for the acquisition of interoperable communications technologies and equipment consistent with purposes authorized under the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology and Equipment program, 34 U.S.C. § 10381 et seq.

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

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren

Member of Congress
California's 18th Congressional District