April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting $750,000 for Nogales Community Development for the Nogales Rural Innovation Center in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Nogales Community Development at 250 N Grand Avenue (PO. Box 421), Nogales, AZ 85621. The location of the project is 250 N Grand Avenue and 112 N Grand Avenue, Nogales, AZ 85621.

This request of $750,000.00 will enable Nogales Community Development (NCD), a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization, to provide local business owners and startups with needed space, equipment, workshops, mentoring and logistics at a dual facility owned by NCD to foster success and support local job creation and sustainability. The project also will help NCD integrate these services with health and food security resources, helping entrepreneurs flourish, while retaining and creating new jobs in downtown Nogales, one of the poorest census tracts in Arizona.

Both Santa Cruz County and Nogales have chronically high rates of unemployment, poverty and low educational attainment. All numbers far exceed state and national averages, especially now as Nogales’ residents and business community have suffered greatly from the closure of border trade since March 2020 due to the pandemic. This is a one-time investment in capital facilities for entrepreneurship and job creation. It supports Nogales Community Development’s long-term community development strategy for improving downtown Nogales through property management and shared services delivery strategies with its trusted community development partners. This is especially important now, so that NCD can provide stability in a time of great economic upheaval to entrepreneurs who need not only business supports, but also access to health care and food supports.
I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.
Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress