

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CHAIR EMERITUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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March 24, 2023

Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on THUD, Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on THUD, Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting \$3,000,000 under the FY 24 HUD-Economic Development Initiative program for Bisbee Science Exploration & Research Center's Southeastern Arizona: Science & Ecotourism Project.

The \$3 million funding allocation will be used for phase 1 of a total \$5 million project to fund construction and development to turn 8 unused acres located at a decommissioned middle school into a site that includes state-of-the-art outdoor facilities, experiential and environmental tour opportunities, and five research field stations that focus on our local environment. The funds will be used to construct the site to include spaces for recreation and outdoor activities, community and visitor gathering spaces for events and engagement, and a layout that incorporates native plants and ecosystems. Final designs are already commissioned and will be complete in mid-2023. Phase two will leverage corporate and community sponsorship for an additional \$2 million to support the five field stations focused on renewable energies, food, water, shelter, and agrivoltaics.

Bisbee is a rural town with an economy that relies heavily on tourism and has gained national notoriety for its tourist appeal and stunning environment. Bisbee is also located in a Sky Island which is an extremely unique ecological ecosystem that has immense biodiversity due to rapidly changing elevation. Many of the people that travel to this part of Arizona do so to experience the unique environment and pursue a variety of interests in things like birding, photography, hiking, and much more. This project will leverage the existing tourism industry and bring researchers from universities to participate in ongoing environmental research, provide a space for them to share their work, and provide actionable knowledge both for our local community and for our visitors. and national interests in environmental and economic sustainability in our region.

The project meets eligibility requirements, is shovel ready and able to obligate funds within a year. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress