

The Honorable Claudia Tenney (NY-22)
Member Testimony before the House Appropriations Committee

I would like to thank Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, and the distinguished members of the House Appropriations Committee for giving Members the opportunity to share their priorities with you today.

I am honored to represent New York's 22nd Congressional District which stretches from the shores of Lake Ontario in the north to the Pennsylvania border in the south including a diverse collection of cities, towns, farms, suburbs, and rural communities. The region has a strong innovation heritage as the birthplace of IBM and headquarters for Rome Laboratory which houses the Air Force Research Lab Information Directorate. However, as one of the first regions in the country to industrialize the infrastructure of Upstate New York is growing increasingly old, worn and in need of investment.

One of my top priorities is the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate's (AFRL/RI) Fiscal Year 2022 funding request. This includes \$10 million for a quantum network computing testbed, \$10 million for the first and only government owned UAS traffic management system, and \$10 million for an artificial intelligence and machine learning Experimentation and Transition Testbed. These investments will deepen the military's expertise in cutting-edge fields such as quantum computing and artificial intelligence, greatly strengthening our defense capabilities.

My congressional district is home to 96 percent of AFRL/RI's workforce. The lab employs 830 military and civilian personnel and is responsible for 1,415 indirect jobs, creating a local economic impact of more than \$500 million. This is a testament to the vitally important role the lab plays in driving economic growth and high-tech innovation in our community. The programs would greatly expand the military's capabilities and enable the United States to compete globally with our adversaries, dominate the virtual battlespace, and counter emerging threats to our country.

Secondly, I ask the support of the Committee for the Civil Air Patrol's Fiscal Year 2022 defense appropriations funding request and ask for \$47.3 million for operations and maintenance, \$11.4 million for aircraft procurement, and \$1.8 million for vehicle procurement. This is only \$4.3 million more than appropriated last year.

CAP plays an increasingly integral role in supporting critical defense training and homeland security as both the Air Force Auxiliary and a public service non-profit supporting every state and thousands of communities. CAP's small, cost-effective budget request deserves full consideration by Congress due to its expanding role as the Auxiliary and Total Force partner of the Air Force, and its increasing support to states and communities. Every day it is doing more and more for the nation and its citizens.

Finally, I would like to express support for clean water projects throughout my district. This includes my community funding projects submissions requesting \$600,000 for the Village of Marathon River Crossing, \$500,000 for the Eastern Mohawk Valley Regional Transmission Main, \$3 million for the Vernon Center Water District, and the \$3 million for Village of

Frankford Water System. Many of these areas are suffering from contamination of their water sources while others have old infrastructure well past its useful life and at a high risk of failure. Without these important projects these communities risk losing their access to dependable clean water.

Transparency and accountability were two critical factors that drove my support of these water projects. I am committed to ensuring any federal funding brought back to our region is spent transparently and responsibly. As with any federal program, Community Project Funds must adhere to the highest standards and I will hold community beneficiaries accountable. This project I am supporting today was rigorously reviewed, including extensive consultations with a variety of stakeholders. It has strong buy-in from the community as well as a clearly demonstrated benefit to my district.

As many of you likely know, New York State taxpayers pay more to the federal government than they get back in return. I will always advocate on behalf of my community and fight to return tax dollars to New York. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.