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

April 30, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Wadajir Residences & Souq in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Forterra NW, located in Tukwila, Washington.

The Wadajir Residences & Souq is a mixed-use attainable housing and commercial development project that will provide affordable cooperative ownership opportunities in Tukwila. The international market located on the ground floor will provide space for the community to gather, small and micro-businesses to thrive and grow, and community members to access culturally specific goods and services. Above the Souq, Forterra is developing 100 affordable homes for cooperative ownership. The requested funding will support necessary preparations for new construction of the international market portion of the project.

With rising rents and the closure or sale of international markets in Tukwila and SeaTac, the BIPOC immigrant and East-African communities in South King County are facing displacement. Many are not able to make rent, pay for basic services, and are increasingly concerned for their long-term stability. Over 110 immigrant-owned small businesses have closed in the area in just the last three years. The Wadajir Residences & Souq will help combat this by providing 100 units of affordable housing and 45+ micro retail units for small businesses. The new businesses will generate quality, family-wage jobs and economic growth for the region and increase economic mobility.

Through a relationship established around shared values of housing affordability and community ownership, Forterra has partnered with the Abu Bakr Islamic Center to develop this project.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam Smith".

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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress