

LORI TRAHAN  
3RD DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE

OVERSIGHT AND  
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National Science Foundation  
Smart and Connected Communities Program,  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

March 10, 2022

RE: Letter of Collaboration in the National Science Foundation, Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC) project "Community Based Approach to Address Contaminants in Drinking Water using Smart Cloud-Connected Electrochemical Sensors"

Dear Program Director:

Since I was elected to represent Massachusetts' Third Congressional District, one of my top priorities has been ensuring that clean water, a fundamental human right, is accessible to all individuals. Unfortunately, for many constituents in my district, clean water remains an aspiration rather than a reality. Having grown up in Lowell, I have seen firsthand how low-income and minority communities are disproportionately affected by high levels of pollution in drinking water. For this reason, I strongly support developing innovative technologies that will help increase our clean water supply. To date, I have worked closely with the City of Lowell on critical wastewater infrastructure upgrades to protect fresh, drinking water sources for the city. Upgrading our water systems keeps all of us safe and healthy. Projects with community-based approaches focused on detecting contaminants in our communities will ensure that the water in the city is safe.

That is why I strongly support UMass Lowell's Harnessing Emerging Research Opportunities to Empower Soldiers (HEROES) initiative. HEROES is a multidisciplinary partnership between UMass Lowell and the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center to solve complex scientific and technological problems. The research this partnership has and continues to produce is groundbreaking and has the potential to impact communities like mine that struggle to ensure a supply of clean water. In fact, I had the opportunity to view a demonstration of this project during the planning phases of the grant proposal. As such, I look forward continuing to collaborate with Dr. Pradeep Kurup to help him expand community stakeholder partnerships and obtain the necessary resources to address drinking water contamination detected by the citizen-science operated smart water quality monitoring system.

If the transdisciplinary research proposal submitted by Dr. Pradeep Kurup entitled "Community Based Approach to Address Contaminants in Drinking Water using Smart Cloud-Connected Electrochemical Sensors" is selected for funding by NSF, it is my intent to collaborate to enable **sustainability, scalability, and transferability** of the smart water quality monitoring system as detailed in the Project Description of the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Trahan".

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress