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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I request \$2,069,000 million in funding for the Expanding the Research Core: Advanced Imaging, Sequencing, Omics, and Critical Minerals Capabilities project in Fiscal Year 2027. The intended recipient is Idaho State University, located at 921 South 8th Avenue, Pocatello, Idaho, 83209. Idaho State University is expanding its research in critical minerals, advanced materials, nuclear medicine, and microbiology. This funding will allow Idaho State University to purchase specialized equipment which will enable further research into critical mineral recovery. Improving this instrumentation capacity enables researchers to more efficiently locate valuable metals in both natural sources and industrial waste streams, evaluate novel separation techniques on industrial byproducts, and determine the effect on microbial populations and other markers of water quality.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as Idaho State University's continued research and innovation in the critical mineral recovery space will keep the United States on the forefront of this incredibly important technology sector.

This project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for the purposes described in Section 272 of Title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Simpson" with "M.C." written in smaller letters at the end of the signature.

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress