



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

TERRI A. SEWELL
ALABAMA, 7TH DISTRICT

April 28th, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Historic Brown Chapel AME Church Restoration Project in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Historic Brown Chapel AME Church Preservation Society, Inc. located at 410 Martin Luther King Street, Selma, AL 36701.

The funding would be used to provide essential renovations to the historic church. Brown Chapel AME Church was declared a National Historic Landmark on February 4, 1982. The Church served as the meeting place in 1965 where marches and protests were planned against voter disenfranchisement of African Americans. On March 7, 1965, civil rights marchers, including the late Congressman John Lewis, left Brown Chapel AME Church and attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the way to the capital in Montgomery, but they were beaten back by Alabama State Troopers.

While undergoing rehabilitation work, extensive termite damage was discovered to the structure of the building, primarily the North and South wall lintels of the sanctuary. With this discovery, it was determined that the building was not safe for occupancy and the planned rehabilitation was halted in order to develop a plan to address needed stabilization. The building suffers from additional damage caused by roof leaks, leaks in the bell towers (cupolas), leaks at the parapet walls, leaks through the brickwork, and structural beam damage under the cupolas in the towers.

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

Sincerely,

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress