

White Mountains High School Clean Energy – 2/24/22

\$70.5K EIIG

\$36.9K CF

[Salutation]

We are so happy to be here and celebrate this transformational project, as the Biden-Harris Administration has made it a priority to combat climate change.

Last time we saw the Congresswoman in the field was to mark a \$14.4M USDA Electric Infrastructure loan to Golight, LLC, to build 7 solar arrays throughout New Hampshire, a project that will save millions for rural communities while greatly reducing emissions.

Our Agency is proud to further the Administration's national mission locally, and we reflect that effort with a focus on funding for modern infrastructure to strengthen communities, small-business development to support farmers and producers, and crucial home improvement for residents that use renewable resources and energy efficiency to protect the quality of our water, air and soil. These shared natural resources are our communities' most precious—and most vulnerable—assets. No one understands that more than the next generation, and that's why our Community Programs people maintain a sharp focus on educational facilities at every level that need our funding help.

At Fall Mountain Regional School District, a \$1M Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant (DLT) helped teachers and students stay better connected during the pandemic. In Lebanon, the Ledyard Charter School received a low-interest, \$1.07M Community Facilities loan to convert an old retail space into a modern school for kids who've had some major life curve balls thrown their way. Adjacent to a mall, the space enables educators to apply a curriculum with employment and community-service elements, giving disadvantaged kids a leg-up on their experience in the workforce.

I believe young people today understand at an early age what it means to make a difference, and that's because there are too many things that need changing for them to sit idly by.

This project is inspiring and unique. I hope that it will prove *more* inspiring and *less* unique over time, as you, the pioneers become the prototype, and we start seeing similar projects at other schools illuminating our educational landscape. These young innovators conceived of, championed and put a plan into action. Their efforts will conserve energy, cut costs and reduce emissions while expanding educational opportunities through hands-on STEM curriculum.

This is the definition of economic development. It is the core of visionary community service. Today, I want to recognize you as not only students of your school, but citizens of your community.

[Handoff]

