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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

June 18, 2015

Jessica Servis
REACH Program Manager
U.S. Sailing Program (REACH)
15 Maritime Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871

RE: 2015 Youth STEM Education Sailing Program

Dear Program Manager Servis,

I am writing in strong support of the grant application submitted by the Community Boating Center, Inc. (CBC) for the funding opportunity through the 2015 Youth STEM Education Sailing Program of the U.S. Sailing REACH Program. The Community Boating Center is seeking a \$1,712 grant for the purchase of supplies needed to offer ten (10) Remotely Operated Vehicle modules and six (6) Wind Turbines modules as part of the STEM curriculum for the After-School and Summer STEM Education Sailing Program in 2015.

The Community Boating Center offers many of Providence's most disadvantaged youth hands-on learning and outdoor experiences that would otherwise be unavailable to them. CBC's STEM program is a model of engaged learning and provides a vital opportunity for children to have access to resources and innovative educational tools both inside and outside of the traditional classroom experience. CBC's youth programming addresses three community goals: 1) provide safer, structured activities for low and moderate income urban youth; 2) address low educational attainment, especially in STEM fields; and 3) bridge the skills gap between education and workplace by fostering healthy social development. Last year alone, the CBC served over 2,000 mostly low-to-moderate income minority youth during their summer and after-school programming season. The Community Boating Center's STEM Program is a great example of a community-based organization working to close the achievement gap between lower-income students and their peers, as well as create opportunities and build a solid foundation in STEM education for all of Providence's youth.

Through my work in Congress, I have strongly supported efforts to expand and improve STEM education in our country. For example, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 565, the Stepping Up to STEM Act, which would promote innovation in STEM education by calling for an office at the Department of Education focusing exclusively on STEM education, and create grants for state-level STEM programs and networks with utilize private and public partnerships.

As the U.S. Representative serving Rhode Island's First Congressional District, it is my pleasure to support the grant proposal put forth by the Community Boating Center, Inc. I encourage you to perform a full and fair review of the application, according to the applicable federal rules and regulations of your agency. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

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