



March 23, 2026

The Honorable Speaker Emerita Pelosi  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support for San Francisco State University's FY27 Community Project Funding Request for Planetarium Modernization (\$650,000)**

Dear Speaker Emerita Pelosi,

I write to express my strong support for San Francisco State University's (SFSU) application for \$650,000 in Community Project Funding. These funds will close the final gap needed to complete the \$2.6 million transformation of the SF State Planetarium into a 21st-century hub for STEM education and community outreach.

Since 1973, the San Francisco State Planetarium has been a treasured community resource, serving more than 100,000 schoolchildren, community groups, members of the public, and SFSU students. It has also been a vital training ground for hundreds of STEM educators who now lead classrooms and museums across the Bay Area. After more than 50 years of service, the facility requires a comprehensive technological overhaul to remain effective for today's students.

This project has already garnered significant private support. SFSU has raised \$1.95 million from the Los Altos-based Heising-Simons Foundation. This generous grant is already supporting construction, site preparation, and the purchase of a world-class Zeiss ZKP-4 star projector.

Once reopened, the refurbished planetarium will serve an estimated 2,000 people annually through:

- Live, interactive shows in both English and Spanish to better serve our diverse communities.
- Programs that use an astronomical perspective to highlight the global climate crisis.
- Training a diverse new generation of STEM educators to serve Bay Area and California schools.

Speaker Emerita Pelosi

March 23, 2026

Page 2

Given the value of this project, I respectfully urge you to prioritize this request for inclusion in the FY27 appropriations bill. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Stefani', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Catherine Stefani

Assemblymember, Nineteenth District

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 7



City and County of San Francisco

## MYRNA MELGAR

March 23, 2026

The Honorable Speaker Emerita Pelosi  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Emerita Pelosi,

I am writing to express my strongest support for San Francisco State University's (SFSU) application for \$650,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending. These funds will fill the final gap needed to complete a \$2.6 million total transformation of the SF State Planetarium into a 21st-century hub for STEM education and community outreach.

Since 1973, the interactive San Francisco State Planetarium has been a treasured resource in our community, serving over 100,000 school children, community groups, members of the public, and SFSU students. It has also been a vital training ground for hundreds of STEM educators who now lead classrooms and museums across the Bay Area. After over 50 years of esteemed service, the facility requires a complete technological overhaul to remain effective for today's students.

This project has already garnered significant private support. SFSU has successfully raised \$1.95 million from the Los Altos-based Heising-Simons Foundation. This generous grant is already being put to work to cover construction, site preparation, and the purchase of a world-class Zeiss ZKP-4 star projector.

Once reopened, the refurbished planetarium will serve an estimated 2,000 people annually through:

- Live, interactive shows provided in both English and Spanish to better serve our diverse local population.
- Utilizing an astronomical perspective to shine a light on the global climate crisis.
- Training a diverse new generation of STEM educators to work in the Bay Area and California's schools.

Because of the value this project will provide, I urge you to prioritize this request for inclusion in the upcoming FY27 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Myrna Melgar".

Myrna Melgar  
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 7