Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

As students in your district, the [TEAM NAME] would like to request your help in advocating that the funding language below that was included in the Senate’s Operating Budget proposal to **maintain** funding for FIRST robotics programs also be included in the legislature’s final compromise budget.

Here is the language that was included in the Senate Operating Budget:

* “If equally matched by private donations, $1,475,000 of the 2026 appropriation shall be used to support FIRST robotics programs in grades four through twelve” (see Sec. 522 lines 25-28 on page 347 [here](https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2025proposals/Documents/so/soPSSB5167Robinson.pdf)).

With this funding, our team and hundreds of other teams in Washington State are able to pursue STEM/STEAM education with “gracious professionalism” through “coopetition”.

*FIRST* is the largest non-profit STEM/STEAM program in Washington State, with over 11,000 students who engage each year in the sport of science, technology and teamwork. With *FIRST*, we are able to build, not only science and technology skills and interests, but also self-confidence and specific skills that align with our career interests.

In addition to being included in the Senate’s 2025-27 Operating Budget proposal, this funding is included in the current 2023-2025 Operating Budget that our team depends on and it was included in Governor Inslee’s 2025-27 Operating Budget proposal.

Would you be willing to help advocate that this funding be included in the legislature’s final budget?

Again, we want to thank you for your support and all the great work that you do for our state and district in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Teams – add photo of your team with robot, mentors and team members! Can be photo from competition, outreach and previous years.