

**Congress of the United States**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0904**

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the University of North Florida Coastal Resilience Demonstration Project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is University of North Florida, located at 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224. The funding would be used to help restore 50 acres of wetlands in Northeast Florida and establish best practices for restoration in the area.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will help restore functioning wetlands that improve resiliency and serve as an important habitat for vital fish and wildlife species. Restoring these wetlands will help decrease flooding risks for surrounding homes and make the area around the project more resilient in the face of hurricanes and nor'easters. This project will also help create best practices that can be used in other restoration projects throughout Northeast Florida.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress