

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0905

March 20, 2026

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 Center for Utility Security and Resilience Workforce Development project for Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of North Florida, located at 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224.

The funding for this project would be used to support the construction of a laboratory building and core infrastructure to provide students with hands-on training in advanced technologies related to energy resilience, cybersecurity, and infrastructure protection. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it directly invests in workforce development for high-demand, mission-critical industries. By integrating real-world research with student instruction, the project will prepare a skilled pipeline of graduates ready to enter the workforce and address growing vulnerabilities in our nation's water and power systems.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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