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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, 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 **Seminole County Septic to Sewer Pilot Project Phase 1B** for fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the **Seminole County Government**, located at 1101 East 1st Street, Sanford, FL, 32771.

This funding will provide sanitary sewer access to 50 homes located within the Wekiva Priority Focus Area (PFA) identified by the Wekiwa Spring and Rock Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). In the BMAP, the PFA represents the area in the basin where "the aquifer is most vulnerable to inputs and where there are the most connections between groundwater and the springs," thereby making this septic-to-sewer conversion a top priority for the County.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it extends access to public sanitary infrastructure for homes currently served by onsite sewer treatment and disposal (septic) systems. The intent is to reduce the amount of nitrogen reaching the Wekiwa Spring and Wekiva River watershed caused by septic systems. Excess nitrogen, above the regulatory standards, is a major contributor to harmful algal blooms, which negatively impact recreation, water quality, and the natural ecosystem of the Wekiva River, an Outstanding Florida Water, and federally designated Wild and Scenic River. Additionally, the successful implementation of this pilot will lead to the long-term execution of a countywide program that will reduce nutrients and benefit all receiving waterbodies in Seminole County.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Cory Mills
Member of Congress