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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration Project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management Department, located at 2300 N. Jog Rd. 4th Floor, West Palm Beach, 33411. The funding would be used for the Lake Worth Lagoon restoration project. Specifically, this restoration project will include the filling of dredge holes, capping muck sediment, and creating living shorelines that ultimately create habitat for mangroves, seagrasses and oysters.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because of the benefits it will provide to all residents and visitors including increased opportunities for recreation, such as fishing, boating, kayaking, and birdwatching. The creation of coastal habitat will improve the water quality, ecological conditions and coastal resiliency of the Lagoon, providing taxpayers beautiful scenery, wondrous sightseeing, and nature-based solutions for protections from rising sea levels. Restoration and enhancement efforts can also be hands-on with taxpayers through outreach events like paddling tours and mangrove plantings.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 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,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress