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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 upgrade of the Westport Wastewater Treatment Facility in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Port St. Lucie, located at 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, FL 34984. The funding would be used to purchase headworks, secondary treatment units, denitrification filters, and electrical equipment to reduce water nutrients. The project will result in effluent that meets the nutrient limits established in the basin management action plan (BMAP). The project will help decrease algal blooms in the St. Lucie River estuary basin, a tributary to the Indian River Lagoon. Toxic algal blooms are harmful to people's health, regional ecosystems, and the overall economy. Only human intervention can effectively reverse trends that are wreaking havoc across Florida's Treasure Coast.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the proposed project will prevent high levels of total nitrogen and total phosphorus from entering the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. These pollutants are identified as regional water quality concerns and are specifically listed within the water body's total maximum daily load requirements.

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,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress