

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

March 20, 2026

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 House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Indian River Lagoon Project to Upgrade Septic to Advanced Treatment Units in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Brevard County, located at 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building A, Viera, FL, 32940.

The funding will be used to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon by reducing nitrogen pollution from household wastewater that enters groundwater through septic drain fields. This project will upgrade the septic systems on 200 properties, (targeting aging systems in poor soils that pollute the most), to advanced treatment units. Grants will be offered to property owners who agree to replace their old, potentially failing septic system with a nationally certified enhanced nitrogen reducing system. Septic upgrades will be funded up to a maximum of \$20,000 each for eliminating the most polluting systems and a minimum of \$6,000 for any conventional septic system within the watershed of the Indian River Lagoon. Federal funds will be matched with local funds raised by a voter-approved infrastructure sales tax. Reducing this source of nutrient pollution helps prevent/reduce algal bloom events which reduce water clarity, decrease dissolved oxygen, and contribute to seagrass loss and fish kills. Reducing wastewater pollution from septic tanks is an important component of ongoing efforts to improve water quality and restore a healthy Indian River Lagoon.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will significantly reduce wastewater pollution from at least 200 properties' septic tanks and prevent at least 1,000 pounds of Total Nitrogen from reaching the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary. The success of the Program will be measured by the number of participants, the estimated reduction in nitrogen loading, performance data from measuring the groundwater at a subsample of septic sites and change in lagoon water quality.

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.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Haridopolos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Mike Haridopolos
Member of Congress