

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

May 2, 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 Indian River Drive Septic to Sewer Conversion Project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Cocoa, located at 65 Stone St., Cocoa, FL 32922.

The requested funds will be used to replace septic systems with a modern gravity sewer system for approximately 88 single-family homes along Indian River Drive, aiming to protect the Indian River Lagoon and its ecosystem. This initiative will connect these homes to the City's existing sewer network, reducing pollution and improving water quality in the lagoon, which supports five state parks, four federal wildlife refuges, and the national seashore.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it directly addresses environmental degradation, public health, and long-term infrastructure resilience. By replacing outdated septic systems with a modern gravity sewer system, the City of Cocoa will prevent harmful pollutants from entering the Indian River Lagoon, a vital waterway that supports Florida's economy, tourism, and wildlife. Investing in this initiative now reduces the need for more costly environmental cleanup and restoration efforts in the future. Additionally, this project aligns with state and federal conservation goals, leveraging existing grant funding and local contributions to maximize impact.

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,



Mike Haridopolos
Member of Congress