

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1805

March 19, 2026

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Expansion of Water Quality Monitoring and Research Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Southeastern Louisiana University, located at 500 W. University Avenue, Hammond, LA 70402.

The funds would be utilized to purchase scientific equipment, make minor improvements to existing laboratory space to house the equipment, acquire a backup power source, and support two post-doctoral researcher positions. This project also seeks to assist in cleanup efforts at ongoing environmental incident sites, particularly the Smitty's Fire Supply explosion in Roseland, LA and the environmental impact of the contaminants in the Tangipahoa River and throughout the surrounding community.

This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it expands Southeastern Louisiana University's Center for Environmental Research (CER) capacity to monitor a wide range of harmful environmental contaminants in-house and invest in the state's ability to monitor and protect water quality and public health.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under Section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

I request you give this project every consideration, consistent with all rules and regulations. Thank you for your attention to this request. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS