

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926

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May 12, 2022

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chair
Committee on Transportation
& Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
& Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Project in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. The intended recipient is the Jacksonville District Office for the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Project located at 701 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207. The project is in Florida's 26th Congressional District.

The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because this would expand the sanitary sewer system to priority areas served by septic tanks systems. The priority areas identified are those expected to realize significant economic, social, and environmental benefits from conversions. A 2019 analysis revealed that approximately 9,000 septic systems are vulnerable to compromise or failure under current groundwater conditions. As climate-induced sea-level rise increases, this number will grow to approximately 13,500 by 2040. Extending sewer to vulnerable areas reduces the risk of public health exposures from malfunctioning systems and reduces nutrient pollution protecting our ground and surface water resources including Biscayne Bay (Bay).

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

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress