

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

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March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Project (FKWQIP) in Fiscal Year 2027.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, located at 701 San Marco Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

The funding would be used to implement a water quality protection program to protect the Florida Keys ecosystem. This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because the environmental compliance requirements to meet advanced water treatment standards are unique in the Florida Keys compared to other water infrastructure programs nationwide. The communities of the Florida Keys are required to meet stringent wastewater and storm water management regulations, as well as comply with water quality and environmental protection standards. To do so, they need to access Environmental Infrastructure funding to construct state of the art treatment facilities throughout the Keys. The FKWQIP projects have and will continue to provide new permanent jobs in communities from Key Largo to the Village of Islamorada to Marathon. In addition to these important benefits, the communities of the Florida Keys are sustained by the tourism industry which is dependent in large part on a healthy marine environment. Funding for this project will continue to support the \$1.3 billion per year tourism industry and 21,000 dependent jobs in the State of Florida.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by P.L. 106-55A; Appendix A, Section 109, and P.L. 117-328.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Congressman Carlos A. Gimenez