## **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR**

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DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE, REGION VIII

U.S. COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS FOUNDER AND CHAIR

> CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS SECRETARY

> > FLORIDA PORTS CAUCUS FOUNDER AND CHAIR

CAUCUS ON THE U.S. COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS FOUNDER AND CHAIR

May 19, 2022

## Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Robotics and Autonomous Systems Laboratory for Coastal Conservation and Restoration in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Florida International University, located at 11200 SW 8th St Miami, FL 33199. This funding request will provide the tools of tomorrow that address critical science questions related to our coastal environment. This initiative is focused on collaboration between various regional research and agency management partners who are advancing and deploying Robotics, Sensor Networks, and Algorithmic Development that are essential to the future of Environmental monitoring and restoration by building a state-of-the-art laboratory in FL-24. Inter-governmentally, it will create the regional clearinghouse for Environmental data, to be shared across federal, state and local governments and research partners. Finally, this will serve to develop research opportunities for the next generation of scientists- from K-12 to graduate students- that address critical science questions that cut across multiple disciplines focused on a synoptic coastal ecosystem science program. Next-generation jobs will require an interdisciplinary, technologically driven approach to problem solving. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Frederica S. Wilson

Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson