



The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 1, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Everglades Task Force—Research, Development, Remote Sensing / Geographic Information System Support in fiscal year 2025. Florida International University, located at 11200 SW 8 Street, Miami, Florida, 33199, will receive funding for this project. The funding would be used to determine how best to support whole-system resilience and assess vulnerabilities; the historic Everglades Restoration efforts call for the most modern and advanced monitoring and sensing systems, data measurement and warehousing, development, and deployment of nature-based restoration solutions, and collaborative work with South Florida Tribal partners. This request would support the work of the Department of Interior's Everglades Task Force to leverage existing research partnerships and allow for:

1. The upgrade and modernization of carbon-flux measurement towers
2. deployment of cutting-edge remote sensing and geographic information system
3. climate technologies and community engagement hub facility
4. creating a central data clearinghouse for data and synthesis across the lifecycle of restoration and quantification of benefits
5. research and development in nature-based green-gray solutions and novel methods for restoration and mangrove rehabilitation; and
6. intentional collaborative work with the South Florida Tribal partners.

The modernization of capacity should also include remote sensing, bathymetric surveying technologies, computational fluid dynamic modeling, artificial intelligence/machine learning, and the use of surface, underwater, and aerial robotics.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds as it will:

1. Expand a distributed network of ground-based carbon flux sensors, aerial drone, aircraft, and satellite-based observations, and an advanced climate modeling center to provide realtime estimates of carbon capture for improving Florida's sustainable water management and Earth system models.
2. Use new technologies in 3-D printing and other green-gray technologies to facilitate physical Everglades habitat protection and restoration (e.g., tree islands).
3. Develop a Data Clearinghouse, in collaboration with the Dept of Interior Everglades Task Force (housed in the Institute of Environment at FIU), to facilitate the synthesis and dissemination of complex data in an easily understandable and interpretable way to inform the community.
4. Expand partnerships with South Florida Tribes to train more indigenous students in STEM careers, engage tribal members in citizen science, and establish a collaborative Everglades observatory that provides data, visualization tools, and engagement opportunities for scientists and the general public.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress