



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0916**

March 13, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the USF Fletcher District Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of South Florida, located at 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, Florida, 33620.

The funding would be used to support the construction of essential infrastructure, including utilities, roadways, pedestrian safety improvements, stormwater systems, and site preparation, to advance the Fletcher District Public-Private Partnership development on the University of South Florida campus. The Florida Board of Governors recently approved this first-of-its-kind initiative which will transform 27 acres of an underutilized 138-acre site into a vibrant, mixed-use district that strengthens the economy of Hillsborough County and the Tampa Bay region.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it is projected to generate 40,000 annual hotel room nights, \$25 million in annual retail spending, approximately 1,000 new residents, and 250 permanent jobs, while driving an estimated \$500 million in construction activity. Federal support will fund long-lasting public infrastructure that unlocks substantial private investment, revitalizes underutilized land, and creates enduring economic value for the region.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress