



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

May 1, 2024

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 \$3 million in funding for the Manatee County Government. This funding is for construction of the second Fort Hamer Bridge. The second bridge, which will be parallel to the existing bridge and will double the capacity of this essential North-South thoroughfare. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this corridor plays an ever-increasing role as a parallel reliever for I-75 and provides regional connections between Manatee, Sarasota, and Hillsborough Counties. The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Subsection 1 of 23 USC 133(b).

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, appearing to read "Vern Buchanan", written over a horizontal line.

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress