



# 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 Army Corps of Engineers. This funding will reimburse Port Manatee, and the local county, for the funds it spent more than 10 years ago dredging the South Channel at the Port.

This is an appropriate use of federal funds and has a very clear federal nexus because Section 156 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2004, Public Law 108-137, as amended by Section 126 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, Public Law 110-161, directs the Secretary of the Army to include the construction of an extension of the south channel, a distance of approximately 1,584 feet consistent with the general reevaluation report, dated April 2002 and prepared by the Jacksonville District, to credit toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the project or reimburse the cost of planning, design, and construction work carried out by the non-Federal interest before the date of the partnership agreement for the project if the Secretary of the Army determines that the work is integral to the project, and to carry out the project as modified with the inclusion of the extension of the south channel. On April 10, 2019, the Division Commander for the South Atlantic Division approved the Manatee Harbor Phase III Section 156 Reimbursement Report for the Manatee Harbor, Florida Deep Draft Navigation Project, dated August 3, 2018, determining the work completed by the Non-Federal Sponsor to be consistent with federal standards and engineering principles and integral to the Project. On November for South Atlantic Division approved the Manatee Harbor, Florida Navigation Project Letter Report dated 30, 2022, the Division Commander October 2022, which documents the final accounting for the Project and determines the amount for reimbursement of the Federal share of the Non-Federal Sponsor's costs to construct the extension of the south channel.

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

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