



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

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
And Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
And Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

I am requesting funding for the South County Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Hillsborough County Government, located at 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, Florida, 33602.

The funding would be used for multiple components, including the construction of a wetland at the new advanced wastewater treatment facility, drinking water facility, and the infrastructure necessary to connect these facilities with the targeted community.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the wetland will utilize engineered soils, controlled hydrology, and native wetland vegetation to promote physical, chemical, and biological processes that further polish treated effluent while providing operational storage capacity. The constructed wetland will reduce the stormwater management footprint at the AWWTF and eliminate the need for reject storage tanks, allowing for more usable acreage on the treatment facility campus.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 33 U.S.C. 1383(c) (Section 603(c)(1)) permitting any municipality, intermunicipal, interstate, or State agency for construction of publicly owned treatment works (as defined in section 212).

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