



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 Wolf Branch Creek Watershed Restoration Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Hillsborough County Government, located at 601 East Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, Florida, 33602.

The funding would be used to provide exotic and nuisance plant control and removal services across the Preserve's previously restored 596 acres of coastal wetlands and uplands.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the completed project will establish newly created estuarine, freshwater, and coastal upland habitats that complement the existing habitats within the Preserve, ensuring ecological continuity and enhancing the overall environmental value of the area.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized CWA Section 603(c)(2) Eligibility: Section 319 and CWA Section 603(c)(3) Eligibility: Section 320.

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