



**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 Gamble Creek Mitigation Area Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Manatee County Government, located at 1112 Manatee Ave West, Bradenton, Florida, 34205.

The funding would be used to construct a stormwater management facility providing water storage capacity and water quality improvements for nearby neighborhoods, an environmental resilience component of the Gamble Creek Flood Mitigation Project.

This project is an appropriate and responsible use of taxpayer dollars because it advances national priorities related to flood mitigation, watershed management, disaster resilience, and environmental protection. By expanding regional flood storage and improving stormwater treatment, the project reduces long-term federal disaster response and recovery costs. The County has already made substantial financial commitments, ensuring federal dollars will leverage local investment to deliver large-scale public, economic, and environmental benefits that extend well beyond the immediate project area.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq (Section 603(c)(5)).

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