



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 Groundwater Wellfield and Treatment Plant in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Tampa Bay Water, located at 2575 Enterprise Road, Clearwater, Florida, 33763.

The funding would be used to bring a new, reliable freshwater source to southern Hillsborough County by designing and constructing a modern groundwater wellfield and treatment plant. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project uses a sustainable “net benefit” approach: before water can be pumped, Tampa Bay Water must show that the aquifer will be replenished through the South Hillsborough Aquifer Recharge Program, where highly treated reclaimed water is injected back into the aquifer.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 40 CFR 35.3520(b)(2)(i).

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