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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
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SUBCOMMITTEES:
NATIONAL SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-0926

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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Police Department, Drone-as-First Responder and Aerial Response Program in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida located at 37790 SW 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33194.

The funding would be used for the Miccosukee Police Department to acquire and deploy two public-safety drone sets and supporting software to increase situational awareness and speed emergency response across remote Everglades/Alligator Alley corridors, the Shark Valley area, and adjacent federal detention facilities. This capability will directly benefit the Miccosukee Tribe community by improving emergency response for residents, supporting community policing, and enhancing officer and public safety in difficult terrain.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds, as these resources will be used primarily for public safety and to ensure law enforcement officers are ready and able to keep our community safe.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(9)).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress