

MARIO DIAZ-BALART  
26TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA  
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CHAIRMAN

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0926

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May 1, 2024

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 the Miccosukee Tribe Police Department's Everglades Emergency Assistance Project in fiscal year 2025.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida located at 37790 SW 8<sup>th</sup> St, Miami, Florida 33194. The funding would be used to enhance emergency response times by procuring specialized equipment, such as side-by-side vehicles, dive trailer and all-terrain vehicles, enabling responders to promptly access remote areas. This equipment will improve safety by offering dependable transportation choices for traversing difficult landscapes, and aide in effective underwater search and rescue missions.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as these resources will greatly enhance the speed of response during emergencies, guarantee the security of community members, and enable efficient search and rescue operations. Through this project, the Miccosukee Tribe Police Department's objective is to enhance community resilience and public safety, protect cultural heritage, while ensuring the long-term preservation of the distinctive ecosystem of the Everglades.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes described in section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)).

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