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26TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA
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Congress of the United States
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May 1, 2025

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 a community center project in Everglades City in fiscal year 2026.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Everglades City, located at 102 Copeland Avenue North, Everglades City, Florida 34139. The funding would be used for construction of a new community center which will serve residents in Everglades City, and the eastern unincorporated Collier County communities of Chokoloskee Island, Copeland, Jerome, Lee Cypress, Ochopee and Plantation Island.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as the community center was severely damaged after Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Ian and was subsequently demolished. The funds will be used to construct a new multi-purpose community center, which will be more resilient and will withstand future storms.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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