

BYRON DONALDS
19TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 29th, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Southwest Florida Hurricane and Red Tide Instrumentation Network for Improved Detection, Forecast, and Public Awareness project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Florida Gulf Coast University, located at 10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Fort Myers, FL 33967. The funding would be used for a network of buoy and underwater glider instrumentation for Southwest Florida coastal waters that can detect, monitor, forecast and communicate both hurricane and red tide data, in a region currently lacking critical coastal information. Equipment and personnel can be itemized as follows: Sofar Spotter Buoy, Ocean Aero Triton, supplies and calibration for deployment and upkeep, field operations, technician salary, public platform, salary for PIs, and overhead costs. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because FGCU's research would allow greatly improved detection and forecast skill, resulting in improved protection of Florida residents and economic sectors (e.g. housing development, tourism and fisheries). Furthermore, the live stream data will be publicly accessible on user friendly, and publicly available platforms. With local stakeholder collaboration we will develop a public platform that focuses on local Southwest Florida hurricane and red tide event prediction, forecast and awareness. This project will be beneficial to FGCU students, residents of southwest Florida, and partners in state and Federal agencies tasked with protecting our citizens from the dangers of hurricanes and red tide events.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 203 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018.

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

Sincerely,



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress