

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Resilience Center Catalyst Initiative in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Water Institute of the Gulf, located at 1110 River Road S., Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The funding would be used for the Resilience Center to provide technical assistance to local governments and non-profits. These efforts will support development, prioritization, and implementation of coastal resilience strategies that would promote effective management aligned with the objectives of the Coastal Zone Management Act and the State of Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan.

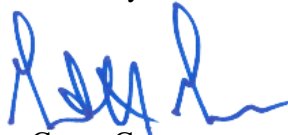
The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will support national and state-level coastal conservation efforts in my state that is always at high risk from severe storm events and flooding from draining the entire Mississippi River. Furthermore, by providing technical assistance to local communities now, the investment will be returned exponentially by teaching our communities to implement these strategies, without assistance, into the future.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §1451 et seq.). Section 310 of the Act (16 U.S.C. §1456c) authorizes the Secretary to enter into arrangements with qualified persons for "the coordination of technical assistance, studies, and research activities" to support the development and implementation of State coastal management objectives. This project fits within these directives because it will provide technical assistance to local governments and non-profits. In turn, these communities will be able to implement resilience projects that support the State's coastal management objectives.

Additionally, unlike other sections of the statute, Section 310 of CZMA carries no cost share requirement. However, I am assured that if the Committee disagrees with the project being authorized

through this specific section of CZMA, the Water Institute of the Gulf is prepared to provide an appropriate amount of non-federal matching funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Garret Graves', with a stylized, cursive script.

Garret Graves
Member of Congress