

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

March 31, 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 Coastal Education, Economic Development, Innovation, and Research Center in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Nicholls State University, located at 906 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Thibodaux, LA, 70301. As Louisiana's "Coastal University" - the southernmost university in the Louisiana Coastal Zone and the nearest university to the southern Gulf Coast - Nicholls is uniquely positioned to pilot innovative solutions to the problems facing our coastal communities. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Coastal Center will provide a hub where public and private entities involved in the joint effort to save Louisiana's coast can come together with the world-class scientists at Nicholls and brainstorm, test, and model coastal restoration strategies for the rest of the world's coastal communities.

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.). Specifically, §1455a(c)(2)(e) specifies that grants may be made for "educational, interpretive, and management costs and such other related costs as the Secretary determines to be consistent with the purposes of this section." This project, housed at a local university, would manage and coordinate State and local partners to develop and implement science-based solutions to more efficiently manage Louisiana's coastal area. By combining education, interpretation of the science, and management all in one place, this project fits within the eligible uses for this funding and increases the efficiency of the use of taxpayer dollars.

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

Sincerely,

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

Garret Graves  
Member of Congress