



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
5/2/2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Reducing Flood Risk while Enhancing Future Water Supplies in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Texas A&M AgriLife Research, located at "Texas A&M AgriLife Research 600 John Kimbrough Blvd, Suite 512 2142 TAMU College Station, TX 77843. The funding would be used for assembly and application of the Integrated Decision Support System to support Water Security (IDSS-WS) within the District and in coordination with upstream and downstream communities - \$1,515,000, Assess the utility of the IDSS-WS for flood mitigation and groundwater recharge, including equipment needs - \$1,530,000, and Project coordination, management, and reporting - \$905,000. Total Request: \$3,950,000. There is no prior federal funding for this specific project. The proposed research project is scalable, and it can be completed in different phases based on the availability of the funds. We are proposing to work with at least 3 counties in the District, but this could be scaled down if necessary.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Towns and communities within the District are at continued risk of both floods and droughts. Although flooding cannot always be prevented, the development of accurate and robust flood flow models, combined with Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS), high-water safety awareness education components, and flood management planning can help meet the overarching goal of reducing flood-related risk. In addition, the State of Texas must adopt an integrated approach that combines scientific insight and engineering solutions with public education initiatives and strategic management plans not only to mitigate high-water risks but also consider the potential of flood flows as water sources to bolster dwindling water supplies.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under 16 U.S. Code sections 590a-590d and 590f-g. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress