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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the *Polk County Water Infrastructure Protection Project* in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is *Polk County*, located at *330 West Church Street, Bartow, FL 33831-9005*. The funding would be used for construction of protective casing infrastructure for critical water and wastewater transmission lines located beneath Interstate 4 and U.S. 27 to prevent system failure and enable rapid shutdown and repair.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it protects critical infrastructure, prevents service disruptions, and reduces the risk of environmental contamination and costly emergency repairs. Failure of these lines could impact thousands of customers and damage major transportation corridors, resulting in significant public safety and economic consequences.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Title VI of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), as it supports the integrity and reliability of publicly owned treatment works and helps prevent sanitary sewer overflows.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Best regards,



Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress