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May 1, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Lake Hamilton's Wastewater Plant (WWTF) project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is The Town of Lake Hamilton, located at 100 Smith Ave., Lake Hamilton, Florida, 33851. Allocation of funding will assist Lake Hamilton comply with Kissimmee River Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP) and discharge requirements imposed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Desired additional improvements include, but are not limited to: influent surge tank (critical importance to protect the treatment equipment from surging diurnal flows that reduce the efficiency of the of the anoxic and aerobic tanks), elevated headworks and blower, second treatment train (to improve treatment efficiency and provide redundancy), and an operations building. The resulting improvements will increase treatment capacity to 0.5 MGD and provide the required enhanced treatment.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will help the Town bring its newly constructed WWTF come up to industry standard with regard to back-up reliability and improved treatment efficiency, including satisfying the stringent nutrient discharges limitations required by the regional Kissimmee River BMAP. Due to the Town's small population and limited initial wastewater customer base, paying for the necessary improvements was difficult and these had to be eliminated from the Phase 1 WWTF Project. By having the Town's new WWTF in place, the unprecedented buildout of homes on the Lake Wales Ridge will now be connected into the Town's new central wastewater collection and treatment system as opposed to continued reliance on septic tanks. This will position the Town to help meet State and Federal goals associated with eliminating septic tank proliferation and BMAP pollutant load reduction.

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.

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

Sincerely,



C. Scott Franklin

Member of Congress