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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**  
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DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND  
MEMORIAL AFFAIRS  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

May 1, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for an Advanced Metering Infrastructure System in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA), located at 100 SW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida, 34974. Allocation of funding would be used to plan and install an Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System on all OUA potable water meters. The AMI system will include approximately 10,000 water meters within the OUA service area. The AMI project will include transmitters, two-way communication and potentially remotely controlled valves.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this system will allow both the OUA and customer to monitor water use remotely as well as receive alerts of unintended or excessive water use. OUA will be able to interrogate the meter remotely. The customer will be able to see usage and to pay bills through cash apps installed with the system. Water conservation is one of the main the main benefits of an AMI system and will allow the customers of a small rural publicly owned utility provider be competitive with their larger urbanized neighbors.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

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