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**Congress of the United States**  
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ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

May 1, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Winter Haven's Sapphire Necklace Water Program project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is The City of Winter Haven, located at 451 Third Street NW, Winter Haven, Florida, 33881. Allocation of funding addresses multiple regional issues centered around water resources such as natural systems, stormwater infrastructure and drinking water supply. The City of Winter Haven, known as the Chain of Lakes City, has 50 lakes in and directly around its city limits and sits at the top of the headwaters to the Peace Creek watershed basin. This basin flows into the Peace River Watershed, which flows 100 miles Southwest to the Gulf of Mexico. The traditional water supply source for this region is the Floridan aquifer which is showing signs of stress and natural systems are becoming more impaired.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will help ensure access to a safe, clean and affordable drinking water supply. Integrated water management approaches such as the Sapphire Necklace Project can provide a return on investment back to the community through enhancements to daily life within our region.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

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