



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Orange County GreenPLACE Environmentally Sensitive Lands Acquisition Project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Orange County, located at 201 South Rosalind Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801. The funding would be used to acquire parcels of environmentally sensitive real property. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will acquire real property which is appropriate for conservation activities. The conservation of these natural lands protects our surface and groundwater resources as well as threatened species, such as the gopher tortoise. This project will increase natural spaces available and accessible to the public and encourage eco-tourism, specifically along the Florida National Scenic Trail.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Soto".

Darren Soto
Member of Congress