



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

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, 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 University of Central Florida's UCF's Non-Earth Imaging Laboratory Equipment project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Central Florida, located at 4000 Central Florida Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32816. The funding would be used to purchase far-field simulator equipment to simulate system performance in real space environments at link distances up to or greater than 1000 km and optimize the space hardware in real time to meet mission performance requirements. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this project will assist industry in the development of technology and procedures needed to improve quality, functionality, and cost-effectiveness, and to facilitate the more rapid commercialization, especially by small- and medium-sized companies throughout the United States, of products based on optical technologies.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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