

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4007

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the City of Florence Pine Street Water Plant Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Florence, located at 324 West Evans Street, Florence, South Carolina 29501. The funding would be used to restore aging infrastructure and improve reliability in Florence, South Carolina's drinking water system.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will support the capital rehabilitation and modernization of the Pine Street Groundwater Treatment Plant, a critical component of the City of Florence's drinking water system. The purpose of this project is to replace aging infrastructure, improve treatment reliability, and ensure the delivery of safe drinking water to residents, businesses, and essential institutions. The Pine Street Groundwater Treatment Plant is the primary water supply for the McLeod Health hospital system, a growing regional provider serving the Florence community and the entire Pee Dee region. Originally constructed in 1959, the facility has exceeded its useful life. Upgrading the plant is critical to sustaining reliable water service for the hospital system and ensuring it remains fully operational now and in the future. The system has experienced challenges during severe weather events, including Hurricane Matthew (2017), Hurricane Florence (2018), the 2019 ice storm, and Tropical Storm Debby (2024), which caused line breaks and reduced system pressure. This project will address these vulnerabilities by upgrading key treatment components and improving system resilience. Funds will be used for construction and equipment upgrades, including replacement of pumps, motors, controls, filtration infrastructure, and chemical feed systems necessary to maintain compliance with drinking water standards. This project is a responsible use of taxpayer funds because it protects public health, supports critical healthcare infrastructure, and ensures reliable access to safe drinking water. The City of Florence has demonstrated strong local commitment through a \$138 million bond investment, and federal funding will help ensure long-term system reliability while reducing the risk of costly failures.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 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, nor does anyone in my immediate family

Sincerely,



Russell Fry
Member of Congress