

CLAY HIGGINS  
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

MEMBER, HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS



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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
CHAIRMAN BORDER SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT  
TRANSPORTATION AND MARITIME SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND  
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE  
NATIONAL SECURITY, THE  
BORDER, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Southwest Louisiana Living Shoreline, Habitat Restoration, and Public Access Initiative in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, located at 150 Terrace Avenue., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802. The funding would be used to protect and restore up to 1 mile of oyster reef and vulnerable marsh habitat along Highway 27 in Lake Calcasieu along the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because This proposal meets the objectives described in the CZMA resource management improvement grants (16 U.S. Code § 1455a). Specifically, the shoreline protection through oyster reef restoration aspects contributes to the CZMA objective for the “preservation or restoration” of areas “because of their conservation, recreational, ecological... values” and “restoring and enhancing shellfish production.” Additionally, the proposed kayak boat launch in Lake Charles meets multiple CZMA objectives by providing “access... to other public coastal areas and to coastal waters” and facilitating the “redevelopment of... underutilized urban waterfronts.”

The proposal also meets CZMA’s Coastal Zone Enhancement Objective (16 U.S. Code § 1456b) by protecting, restoring, and enhancing the existing coastal wetlands base and creating new coastal wetlands, as well as by attaining increased opportunity for public access, taking into account current and future public access needs, to coastal areas of recreational, historical, aesthetic, ecological, or cultural value. The benefits to Louisiana are substantial. The proposal would construct living shorelines in key coastal area to slow shoreline erosion, restore marsh, and support fisheries. Similar projects have been scientifically proven to provide approximately 50% less coastal erosion than areas without the shoreline restoration measures. The proposal would also provide urban access to coastal ecosystems and engage the public in volunteer plantings and generating key natural materials for additional coastal restoration. These projects are consistent with fulfilling Louisiana’s 2023 Coastal Master Plan.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

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

Respectfully,

Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress