

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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HEALTH

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

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May 2, 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 House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the AIS Messaging for the Protection of Mariners and North Atlantic right whales in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Georgia Conservancy, located at 428 Bull Street, Suite 210 Savannah, Georgia 31401. The funding would be used to support the installation of an Automatic Identification System (AIS) transmit station in the state of Georgia, which is a maritime transponder system that is required worldwide on all vessels 65 feet and over, to automatically transmit information about North Atlantic right whales seasonal management areas to vessels transiting those areas. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this initiative enhances boater safety, and reduces the risk of vessel strikes to protect marine species.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.). I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress