

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1001

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May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Port Wentworth Storm Water/Wastewater Mitigation and Pump Station Upgrades in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Port Wentworth, located at 2 Magnolia Boulevard, Port Wentworth, Georgia 31407.

The funding would be used to replace to provide enhanced service for our existing residents and handle the new residential growth in the City. needed. The objective of the project is to increase the capacity threshold and replace inferior pump stations and equipment. to accommodate additional development contributing wastewater to the lift stations. This project will also improve stormwater mitigation and water service areas and will allow water flow to be better maintained, which will increase water pressure and quality throughout the City. The need for stormwater mitigation is a priority as the majority of flood-prone and problematic areas are within the City's minority and lower-income areas. The intrusion of stormwater into the existing wastewater treatment plant substantially reduces capacity, especially during storm events. The current plant cannot adequately process the overflow for the current residents. The existing plant cannot serve projected future wastewater flows.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because over the last five years, Port Wentworth has averaged over 500 new residences constructed each year. In 2022, the City had 2,625 sewer customers. That number has grown to 3,171 customers as of June 2023. As of September 2022, the County had 1587 unbuilt residences approved, with new zone change requests coming in monthly. This housing trend is expected to extend into the next 7 years, if not a decade. The City is also experiencing exponential growth due to the construction of a Hyundai factory less than 20 miles away. The factory plans to employ 8,100 workers, making it the largest single economic development project in Georgia's history. In addition, Sewon America, an automobile parts manufacturing plant, is being constructed within Effingham County spurring the need for more residential units in Port Wentworth. The new manufacturing center will create over 740 new jobs. This growth comes with additional demand, especially for our water and sewer systems.

This will take a proactive stance in water and sewer infrastructure investment that will improve long-term resilience. The expanded plant will increase operating efficiency, help the local

environment, provide economic benefits, improve the reliability of compliance, and enhance the community's quality of life.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq.

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 "Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress