

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0913

May 22, 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 HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the *Clearwater Marine Aquarium Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital* project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding is the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, located at 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, Florida 33767.

Funding will be used to construct a new sea turtle rehabilitation hospital, including new recovery pools with filtration and heating systems, a renovated surgical suite with modern equipment, a dedicated quarantine area, and utility vehicles for field transport. Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) has rescued and rehabilitated nearly 1,000 sea turtles over the past decade, contributing to the preservation of federally protected marine species and the broader marine ecosystem.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it strengthens environmental conservation, supports marine research and rescue efforts, and reinforces Pinellas County's \$6.7 billion tourism economy that depends on a healthy marine environment.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luna.", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the left side.

Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress

