

VICENTE GONZALEZ  
34TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,  
ILLEGAL FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the UTRGV Coastal Ecosystems Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), located at One West University Blvd., Brownsville, Texas 77820. The funding would be used to transform the 6.5-acre wetland into an accessible outdoor classroom and laboratory. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Wetlands Education Center will increase the educational and research opportunities in several UTRGV graduate and undergraduate programs.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding is consistent with, and supportive of, NOAA's mission and aligned with one or more of the 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.

Sincerely,



Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress