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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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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 HOB  
Washington, D.C. 2051

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Lake Lanier Water Quality Initiative in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center at Albany State University, located at 125 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31701.

The funding would be used for the Lake Lanier Water Quality Initiative. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a critical issue facing Georgia's 7<sup>th</sup> District. Lake Lanier is currently impaired by nutrient pollution from various sources, including upstream urban and agricultural sources. Excess phosphorus and nitrogen combined with warm temperatures are causing harmful algal blooms in the lake, threatening human and wildlife health, water quality, and water supply. Taking action to reduce and prevent nutrient loading in Lake Lanier will provide solutions to impacted communities while also protecting a vital regional resource for public health, water quality, water supply, wildlife health, and Lake Lanier's economic viability for recreation and fishing.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized by the Soil Conservation and Allotment Domestic Act of 1935, 16 U.S. Code sections 590a-590d and 590f-g.

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

Sincerely,



Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress