

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

May 3, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority's Oakley Area Water Extension project in Fiscal Year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA), located at 235 Government Center Drive, Wilmington, NC 28403. The funding would be used to extend 8,868 feet of water mains into an existing underserved neighborhood.

The project appropriately uses taxpayer funds because it would serve about 222 residences currently served by private homeowner wells. The Oakley neighborhood is not served by the CFPUA water distribution system and currently relies on private wells for their drinking water. Contamination by per- and poly-fluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds have been detected in groundwater wells throughout New Hanover County, including in Oakley. The PFAS compounds detected in these wells are typically PFOA and PFOS. Moreover, several of these drinking water wells have failed and require replacement. Such an unexpected expense is out of reach for families in the neighborhood, which lies in a census block group where the median household income is \$36,149. Federal funding will prevent the utility authority from raising rates across their service areas.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

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

Sincerely,

