

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
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 University of North Carolina at Wilmington's Cybersecurity Maritime Center in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of North Carolina at Wilmington located at 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403. The funding would be used to equip UNCW's Maritime Simulation Center with advanced simulation tools and software to enhance maritime security, cyber incident response, and training.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because maritime cybersecurity threats continue to increase, requiring the maritime community to effectively manage constantly evolving risks and maintain a safe cyber environment. This request will support workforce development pipelines around one of America's most significant ports.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in Section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



Member of Congress