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**Congress of the United States**  
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May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Tracking Waterborne Microbial Contaminants of Concern in Bexar County project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Texas A&M University-San Antonio at One University Way, San Antonio, Texas 78224. The proposed project is located at Texas A&M University-San Antonio at One University Way, San Antonio, Texas 78224.

The funding would be used to research two facets of wastewater surveillance. First, it will focus on method development and expanding capacity to detect new and emerging pathogenic threats through wastewater surveillance. Second, it will extend the analysis to include not only wastewater but also surface and aquifer water. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it seeks to develop an integrated framework for water-based, communicable disease surveillance that would benefit our communities.

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,



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress