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CHELLIE PINGREE  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, MAINE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES (RANKING MEMBER)

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

March 20, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Wastewater Dewatering System Improvements Project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of South Portland, located at:

City of South Portland  
25 Cottage Road  
South Portland, Maine 04106

The funding would be used to upgrade South Portland's aging and failing wastewater biosolids dewatering system and sludge container area, eliminating the potential for loss of system function and risks associated with disposal of PFAS-contaminated sludge, protecting Casco Bay, and significantly reducing costs to ratepayers by reducing hauling costs up by as much as 50%.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the receiving body for treated wastewater from the South Portland plant, Casco Bay, is a National Estuary and the current system is incapable of sufficiently dewatering the material to optimize biosolids removal. Upgrading the dewatering systems will substantially reduce eliminate the risk of loss of system function which would both impose additional costs on ratepayers and put water quality at risk.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chellie Pingree', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

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