

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

23RD DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Coastal Ecosystems Disease Etiology, Remediation, and Restoration for Community Ecological and Economic Health in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this is Nova Southeastern University, located at 3301 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314.

The funding would be used to address challenges to Florida, Atlantic, and Caribbean corals and reefs, including those along the Atlantic, the Southeast and South Florida reef tracks, and the Florida Gulf of Mexico Coast (including the west Florida shelf) in a prompt, collaborative, and technically advanced manner. This program would deploy the research resources across the scientific disciplines required to quickly address disease etiology of stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD), develop informed management strategies, and robustly implement remedial actions and reef restoration in the field. The objective is to provide immediate answers to currently unknown questions about SCTLD, other coral reef issues, and appropriate actions within the one-year project period. Coral Reef ecosystems directly support over \$6 billion in economic activity and 71,000 jobs. The Florida coral reef systems are the epicenter of SCTLD that is devastating coastal ecosystems and threatening industries dependent on them. This project is of crucial importance to Florida communities, their economies, and their neighborhoods.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Wasserman Schultz".

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

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