



April 22, 2025

Honorable Byron Donalds
United States Congress
1710 Longworth HOB
Washington DC 20515

Re: Community Project Funding Request - Gulf Coast Tide and Storm Tracking Network Expansion

Dear Congressman Donalds,

The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners wishes to voice its support for the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership's community project funding request entitled, "Gulf Coast Tide and Storm Tracking Network Expansion". Much like its neighbors in Lee and Sarasota Counties, Charlotte County's citizens have experienced life-altering, lasting impacts from the numerous hurricanes that impacted the southwest Florida coast in recent years. Our county has become highly efficient and effective in responding and recovering from these storm events. However, we have grown to recognize the ability of our Emergency Operations Center to monitor storm impacts during an event has been significantly hampered by the lack of real-time data concerning the exact timing and extent of both onset and cessation of surge/flood conditions affecting our community. In addition, public demand for online tide gages has been increasing substantially.

The county is taking steps to rectify this information gap by installing flood and tide monitoring gauges in waterways and along coastlines. While this will allow us to track the arrival and residence time of flood and surge events, it will not provide advance notice of these impacts, nor allow us to predict the timing and direction of these events. For that reason, having gauges in open waters, such as Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of America, are critical to maintaining a complete picture of storm risk for our citizens. NOAA is well qualified to lead this effort with their extensive experience in installing and maintaining high-precision, resilient water level and weather monitoring stations. In addition, NOAA has indicated our region of the southwest Florida coast as a high-priority data gap.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request, and please let us know if we may be of any assistance in pursuing funding for this necessary project.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Tiseo, Chairman
Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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