

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0902

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Mark Amodei
Chairman,
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
Acting Ranking Member,
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Amodei and Acting Ranking Member Underwood:

I am requesting funding for the Taylor County Emergency Operations and Public Safety Complex in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Taylor County Board of County Commissioners, located at E. Green St. Perry, FL 32347. The Taylor County Emergency Operations and Public Safety Complex will be constructed to meet CAT 5 Hurricane rated standards to ensure resiliency and the continuity of operations. The facility will be large enough to efficiently and effectively operate in the event of a disaster or catastrophic events such as Hurricane Idalia and Hurricane Helene. The existing facility does not have the capacity to accommodate multiple agencies for pre or post disaster planning or recovery measures. The facility will have an area for sheltering for essential service personnel and/or those with special needs. In addition to Emergency Operations, the facility will also offer EMS, fire protection, and law enforcement services.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Taylor County is located in the vulnerable coastal Big Bend Region. The County is a rural, fiscally constrained area. The County has very limited resources and is a Florida designated Rural Area of Opportunity and Rural Economic Development Initiative community. The County has one of the longest coastlines in the State with a 61-mile coastline. With the shallow coastal waters of the Gulf's Apalachee Bay, the County is frequently vulnerable to tropical storms, hurricanes, and coastal surge. The County suffered catastrophic loss from Hurricanes Idalia and Helene. It was apparent pre, during, and post Idalia and Helene the County did not have an adequate Emergency Operations Center (EOC). It is critical for public safety that the County obtains funding for an efficient and adequate EOC. The County provides mutual aid to the adjacent counties of Dixie, Madison, and Jefferson, which are all fiscally constrained with limited emergency support services.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c), as amended by section 202 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (9/11 Act).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neal P. Dunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Neal" being the most prominent.

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.

Member of Congress