



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

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Pacific Northwest Estuarine Biosecurity & Infrastructure Resilience Initiative in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Portland State University located at 1600 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR, 97201. The funding would be used to establish an Early Detection and Rapid Response network to monitor and mitigate the invasive Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) in the Columbia River estuary and Willamette River, following the first-ever confirmed detections of this species in the Pacific Northwest in April and November 2025.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this project supports the protection of our nation's diverse coastal community. Currently, no early-detection or rapid-response capacity for this species currently exists in the region. This project fills that gap before the problem becomes unmanageable, providing Northwest Oregon communities with the surveillance, risk-mapping, and interagency-coordination tools needed to protect coastal zone resources and infrastructure.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 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 "Maxine Dexter".

Maxine Dexter, MD
Member of Congress