

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE COMPETITION
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

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

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2055 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4261

GLEN ALLEN OFFICE
4201 DOMINION BOULEVARD, SUITE 110
GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060
(804) 401-4120

YORKTOWN OFFICE
307 MAIN STREET
YORKTOWN, VA 23690
(757) 527-6270

WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV

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 Strengthening Coastal Forecasting Capacity in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), located at 1370 Greate Road, Gloucester Point, VA 23062.

The funding would be used to support the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Center of Excellence in Environmental Forecasting (CEEF) by providing next-generation computing and data visualization infrastructure, including file and web servers and a dedicated GIS portal, as well as specialized scientific and technical personnel to operate and maintain high-resolution environmental forecasting systems.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will strengthen coastal resilience and improve emergency planning by providing real-time forecasting and decision-support tools that help communities prepare for sea-level rise, storm surge, flooding, shoreline erosion, harmful algal blooms, and other coastal hazards. These capabilities will support federal, state, and local decision makers in protecting coastal infrastructure, natural resources, and public safety while advancing scientific research and data-driven environmental management.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Wittman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress