

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2404**

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairwoman, Committee on  
Appropriations  
The U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Appropriations  
The U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

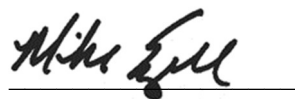
Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Geospatial Science for Coastal Disaster and Emergency Management (GeoDEM). The entity to receive funding for this project is University of Southern Mississippi located at 118 College Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39406. The funding would be used to establish a collaborative partnership between the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Geospatial Center (USM GCGC) the USM School of Construction and Design (USM SoCD) to enhance disaster mitigation, response, and recovery capacity in coastal Mississippi. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would support the development of communities that will be more resilient to natural disasters and characterized by more efficient and equitable community planning, more sustainable economies, and more efficient and cost-effective disaster response efforts.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in the 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,



Mike Ezell  
Member of Congress