

WILLIAM R. KEATING
9TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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RANKING MEMBER
EUROPE
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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May 23, 2025

Chairman Tom Cole
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

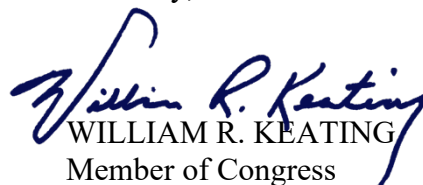
Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecast System Computer Upgrade Project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth located at 285 Old Westport Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747. The funding would be used to construct a high-performance computer system to enhance the Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecast System (NECOFS). This system will improve coastal inundation predictions, support fisheries forecasts, provide offshore wind impact assessments, and offer student training opportunities. With this new equipment, the project intends to deliver a next-generation NECOFS to aid coastal managers and community leaders in making informed decisions about resilience and development. The advanced NECOFS will offer real-time inundation forecasts, allowing coastal regions to prepare for and mitigate risks. It will also assess future inundation to support coastal resilience planning. Furthermore, ocean chemistry and acidification predictions can be integrated, benefiting fisheries management, especially for key species like scallops. This enhanced system will also be able to analyze the environmental impact of offshore wind development, providing critical insights for sustainable industry growth. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer dollars because the work undertaken by NECOFS will support federal, state, and local decision making around coastal inundation as well as supporting the most valuable fishing port in the nation. This project also supports the greater diverse blue economy sector which contributes \$8.5 billion annually to the Commonwealth's GDP and also benefits surrounding New England states.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,


WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress