

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2026

The Honorable Adam Telle
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

RE: Charlotte County, Florida; Federal Register Docket ID No. COE-2026-0034

Dear Assistant Secretary Telle,

On behalf of the citizens of Charlotte County, Florida, we write to strongly oppose the inclusion of Charlotte County, Florida's Section 219 environmental infrastructure authorization on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Proposed Deauthorization List (Federal Register Docket ID No. COE-2026-0034). We urge you to remove this authorization from the final list before it is transmitted to Congress.

For years, Charlotte County and our Congressional colleagues have worked to advance this authorization because of the serious water quality challenges associated with failing septic systems. Such authorization was actually increased from \$3 million to \$33 million in 2022 following congressional advocacy concerning the nearly 2,600 failing septic systems that have been negatively affecting water quality in the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary and the Gulf.

Deauthorizing this project would undermine the very congressional action we worked to secure. The absence of obligated funding must not be mistaken for an absence of need or local commitment, as Charlotte County was limited in prioritizing certain project funding requests. This included the Manasota Key Shoreline Protection Study, which was fully funded and completed. With that project finished, Charlotte County is now suited to request Congressional support for septic-to-sewer conversions pursuant to the current Section 219 environmental infrastructure authorization. As Charlotte County continues to pursue a broader wastewater conversion program estimated at approximately \$400 million, the Section 219 environmental infrastructure authorization remains a critical tool for protecting water quality in Charlotte County.

Congress acted deliberately to preserve and strengthen Charlotte County's authorization. Deauthorizing it now, just as Charlotte County is prepared to seek federal support for septic-to-sewer conversions, would jeopardize years of work that the County, its residents, and our offices accomplished to address a dire and persistent water quality challenge. Therefore, we urge you to remove Charlotte County's Section 219 environmental infrastructure authorization from any current or subsequent list for deauthorization. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we trust that it receives your immediate and serious consideration.

Sincerely,



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Ashley Moody
United States Senator