

STACEY PLASKETT
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
April 29, 2022

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE
AND RESEARCH

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting fiscal year 2023 community project funding for the Coral and Aquatic Research and Restoration project in the Virgin Islands.

The non-profit entity to receive funding for this project is the the Coral World Ocean and Reef Initiative, Inc. (CWORI), located at 6450 Coki Point Road, St. Thomas, VI 00802. The anticipated location of the project is Coki Point, St. Thomas, VI 00802.

The requested funding would be used by the non-profit CWORI to provide the funding, personnel, infrastructure and resources required for coral rescue and restoration activities across the St. Thomas and St. John region of the Virgin Islands. CWORI is already active in coral restoration activities in the Virgin Islands. This project will further complement and support more rapid response to emerging threats to coral reef and other marine life in the Virgin Islands, including improved sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation. Total estimated cost of the project is \$950,000. Therefore, in order to meet cost-share requirements, I am requesting \$900,000 for this project.

This project is a sound use of taxpayer funding because the Virgin Islands is disproportionately vulnerable to climate change and impacted by severe hurricanes and other extreme coastal weather events. The overall economic and environmental health of the United States territory of the Virgin Islands depends on healthy coral reefs and other nature-based infrastructure and marine life surrounding the islands. To better protect and restore the coral reefs and marine environment in the territory, it is critical to have state-of-the art research and rehabilitation capabilities on island to address localized problems and support affected communities.

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

Sincerely,



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress