

MADELEINE DEAN
4TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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Congress of the United States
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May 2, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
2207 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Water Pollution Control Center Hydrothermal Carbonization Equipment project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Upper Merion Township, located at 175 West Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA, 19406.

The funding would be used to install a Hydrothermal Carbonization (HTC) system at their local wastewater treatment plant. The project aims to transform their wastewater treatment process, converting organic waste into a valuable resource. The HTC system operates under moderate temperatures and pressures, transforming sewage sludge into hydrochar, a carbon-rich material with potential energy applications. This process not only significantly reduces waste volume but also recovers energy and nutrients, contributing to a circular economy. Moreover, HTC can effectively eliminate emerging contaminants often missed by conventional treatments. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Upper Merion is home to nearly 35,000 Pennsylvanians, all served by the Township's two wastewater treatment plants. Upgrading the wastewater process equipment to a hydrothermal carbonization system will reduce the amount of wastewater sludge produced, reduce the costs of sludge disposal, and minimize or eliminate the landfilling of wastewater sludge.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 USC 1381 et seq.

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

Sincerely,



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress