



Jared Golden  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District of Maine

May 23, 2025

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

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

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Mi'kmaq Environmental Laboratory in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Mi'kmaq Nation, located at 7 Northern Road, Presque Isle, Maine, 04769. The funding would be used for designing and building a new environmental laboratory at the Mi'kmaq Nation for water testing for fluoride, chloride, nitrate, nitrite, and sulfate, as well as major cations such as lithium, sodium, ammonium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium and for education and training opportunities for Tribal youth and others interested in pursuing a career in science- and nature resource-related fields.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because currently, if anyone in northern Maine would like to do testing for fluoride, chloride, nitrate, nitrite, and sulfate, as well as major cations such as lithium, sodium, ammonium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium, they must send their samples to labs in other areas at an additional shipping charge, which has left many opting not to test. With no local testing options and a majority of residents using well water, this project would provide services for many entities, including but not limited to homeowners, realtors, food manufacturing companies, farms, and manufacturers. Expanding the current Lab in a new building, with expanded services, will also allow for more well-paying jobs for Tribal members and others in the area looking for stable employment opportunities while at the same time, providing a critical service for the residents of Aroostook County to address increasing demand for these important health and safety services for all residents.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4).

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

Sincerely,

Jared F. Golden  
Member of Congress