

DANIEL WEBSTER  
11TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0911

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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the University of South Florida AI-Assisted Gust Wind Tunnel for Advanced Air Mobility in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of South Florida (USF), located at 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33620. The funding would purchase the equipment necessary to establish an AI-assisted gust wind tunnel for advanced air mobility. The proposed wind tunnel would provide the experimental capabilities to address significant research and development challenges across both commercial and military sectors of advanced air mobility and aerospace engineering. This innovative facility would revolutionize wind tunnel use by transitioning from passive validation to active, AI-driven flight survivability optimization.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because an AI-powered wind tunnel would help design safer, smarter aircraft and drones, strengthen national defense, support a rapidly growing aviation industry in the region, and boost the greater Tampa Bay area economy. Countries around the world are leveraging AI technology to improve national security, industry and more. The United States must keep pace with China and others to ensure America remains a leader in aerospace research, design, engineering and more.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress