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13TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON RULES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
AND LONG TERM CARE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0918**

April 19, 1988

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MARIA TOLON  
LATIN REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The University of Miami has made great strides in several key areas of significant importance, not only to Florida and our region, but to the federal government and national agenda. These include notable achievements in and commitment to atmospheric and marine sciences research and the development of much-needed comprehensive information services on the Latin American and Caribbean region. Your support of these initiatives has been greatly appreciated and recognized.

In the FY 1987 supplemental appropriations bill, \$900,00 was provided for the first year of the University of Miami Latin American database project. The Department of State did award the University a two-year grant award agreement after a thorough review of the proposed plan and proposal, and the University has been working intensively to develop an initial working model to provide Congressional and federal users with immediate access to these services, as well as establishing a regional network of collectors, researchers and linkages with every significant publication and document important to comprehensive coverage of this critical region. Additional funds will be needed to conclude the second stage of the two-year plan agreed to by the Department of State. Funding was not included in the Department's budget proposal for FY 1989, and therefore, we are respectfully requesting the second year funding support necessary of \$900,000.

This database is a unique and much-needed instrument that will provide on-line bibliographic information to a wide range of national users, including federal agencies and Congress, the Library of Congress, universities and colleges, research entities, health and medical entities, business and international trade. It provides immediate and ready access to continually updated information on developments and trends in this critical region.

The second area of support we seek is for continuation of the Southeast U.S.-Caribbean fisheries investigation project of NOAA conducted through the University of Miami and the Miami-based NOAA laboratory facility. This project is considered vital to the long-range development and protection of tropical fish populations in the Southeast U.S. and Caribbean region. The FY 1988 project plan is well underway in a very

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positive and productive collaborative manner between the nationally recognized Miami Rosenstiel School of Atmospheric and Marine Sciences and NOAA.

We are respectfully seeking continuation funds essential to this project, and are submitting to you a full explanation of the project and the second stage funding plan and proposal. The Miami Rosenstiel School of Atmospheric and Marine Sciences has unique capacities to offer the federal government, operating its own fish hatchery, advanced land satellite remote-sensing facilities, and with a track record of over 40 years of collaborative education, research and training activities with the Latin American regional marine sciences and fisheries entities. We hope that an additional \$1 million could be provided in the FY 1989 budget for this project.

We are also strongly supportive of NOAA's proposed Sea-Level project. This element of the NOAA Global Climate Project should be implemented, and the University of Miami is anxious to proceed, in collaboration with the NOAA Miami-based research facilities and laboratories. Clearly the changes in the sea-level have a dramatic impact on the State of Florida, with one of the longest costal mileages in the nation, but this research is critical to all states, and obviously has considerable atmospheric research concerns. The Administration's FY 1989 budget emphasizes the importance of this interagency Global Climate Project.

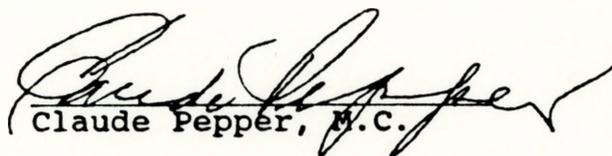
We would ask that \$1 million be included in the FY 1989 budget to implement this NOAA-proposed project thorough the Rosenstiel School and the Miami NOAA labs.

We do realize that this will be a very difficult year for the Subcommittee, but we sincerely hope that these three projects, which we consider important to Florida and to national and federal agendas, can be supported. The University's track record has been proven in each area, and there are already strong, positive collaborative relationships between the federal agencies involved and the University of Miami in place. These requests would provide modest, but critical support to the University at this point in time to continue these projects.

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Finally, we must reiterate our support for the National Sea Grant Program. This program has been under-funded for many years. Last year Congress enacted a reauthorization bill which more accurately reflects the needs and priorities for marine science research and educational programs. We sincerely hope that overall Sea Grant funding can be accommodated this year. We are especially interested in the implementation of the reauthorized International Sea Grant Program, and that specific funding for this important element of NOAA's program can be implemented in FY 1989.

Sincerely,

  
Claude Pepper, M.C.

  
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William Lehman, M.C.

Honorable Neal Smith  
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