



April 23, 2019

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Young
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Katko
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Representative Young, Chairwoman Napolitano, and Representative Katko:

On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and its 15,000 members, I am writing to offer our support for H.R. 1497, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019. This legislation will help state and local communities fund infrastructure projects that protect our most vital resource, water.

ASLA, founded in 1899, is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, with 49 chapters representing all 50 states and U.S. territories. Landscape architects are design professionals licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia who plan and design water and stormwater management projects and sites that help communities protect their water resources, while also preparing for, and recovering from, natural disasters. Landscape architects have the training, expertise, and skills as leaders in managing water and stormwater through creating resilient green infrastructure designs to protect waterways from pollution so all living organisms can safely rely on our nation's precious water sources.

Landscape architects work on countless projects that would otherwise not be possible without the assistance of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). Many communities do not have their own funding mechanisms to keep their water infrastructure safe, up to date, and within the requirements of the Clean Water Act. We are grateful that your legislation not only reauthorizes CWSRF, but updates and amends it to account for the realities of today and the future. By increasing the allowable funding and creating new pilot projects, you will allow more communities to address their critical water infrastructure needs. Because CWSRF is such an important program to landscape architects, we support your legislation.

We are also pleased by the inclusion of \$900 million for community grants to maintain and update combined stormwater and wastewater management infrastructure. This allows communities to use green infrastructure projects, which maintains consistency with and bolsters the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act that became law earlier this year. The inclusion of a \$600 million pilot program, with an emphasis on resilience and sustainability, addressing wet

weather discharge is in line with ASLA's own mission, vision, and values. Landscape architects strive daily to promote resilience and sustainability in design, planning, and building. We believe these new provisions will help incentivize states and localities to address resiliency and sustainability as they build new and update existing water infrastructure projects.



Thank you again for your continued leadership and bipartisan commitment in the fight to ensure that our water resources are preserved and free of pollutants. We hope that this legislation becomes law so that this vital program can continue to help states and localities meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Somerville". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nancy C. Somerville, Hon. ASLA
Executive Vice President/CEO