

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment
House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment
House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Napolitano and Ranking Member Westerman:

Thank you for your work ensuring that our nation's waterways are maintained and improved. As the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment prepares the Water Resources and Development Act of 2020, we request that you include language authorizing full funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.

As you know, the congressionally-approved compacts of the River Basin Commissions (P.L. 87-328, P.L. 91-575, P.L. 91-407) outline funding obligations for the federal government, through the Army Corps of Engineers. However, for several years, the agreed upon federal contributions to the Commissions have not been made. These shortfalls have resulted in financial strain for the Commissions and a decreased capacity to carry out the important responsibilities with which the Commissions have been charged.

We therefore ask you to include language authorizing robust funding for the federal contribution to the Commissions in the Water Resources and Development Act of 2020. The Commissions, in close cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers, support water quality protection, water supply allocation, flood loss reduction, drought management, water conservation, permitting, watershed planning, and recreation. Full federal funding would allow the Commissions to monitor contaminants of emerging concern, conduct microplastics surveys, and assist municipalities with flooding projections due to changes in climate. It would also strengthen the vital role that both the Corps and the Commissions play in protecting our water and environment, sustaining international commerce, and promoting national security.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to safeguard our nation's water resources. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress