



# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

531 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-3814

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February 27, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment  
Committee on Transportation  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, Chairman Napolitano, and Ranking Member Westerman:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my priorities for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020. Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District is home to four locks and dams along the Monongahela River, as well as numerous flood protection projects. The larger Pittsburgh District includes 10 significant river systems and 328 miles of navigable waterways which support industries ranging from mining, steel, and manufacturing. It is critical we invest in this aging system and our inland waterways as a whole in order to grow our economy and maintain our competitive edge on the global stage. Therefore, I would like to share the following proposals for WRDA 2020:

- Adjust the cost share for construction of inland waterways infrastructure projects to 25 percent from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and 75 percent from general funds, similar to the WRDA 2016 change for deep draft ports. Currently, the inland waterways system has a portfolio of more than 15 authorized high priority inland projects awaiting construction. Adjusting the cost share will accelerate project delivery on these critical projects.
- Increase the authorization limit for Section 313, which authorizes the Army Corps to provide support to communities for projects like wastewater treatment and water supply distribution. The current limit of \$200 million will soon be met and will limit the Army Corps' ability help communities in my district.
- Authorize new construction activities for the Upper Ohio River Navigation Project, which is critical for freight movement at the Port of Pittsburgh and on the Monongahela and Allegheny River Navigation Systems.

- Assist communities in responding to and recovering from flooding and other disasters that affect our inland waterways and ports, including providing guidance on working with federal, state, and local partners.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my WRDA 2020 priorities with you. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my legislative director, Emily Ackerman, at [Emily.Ackerman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Emily.Ackerman@mail.house.gov) or 202-225-2065.

Very respectfully,



Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress