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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

COMMITTEE ON
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MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for "Washington Region Secondary Water Source Feasibility Study" in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, located at 777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300, Washington, District of Columbia, 20002. The funding would be used for the project below.

Project: Washington Region Secondary Water Source Feasibility Study

Recipient: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300, Washington, District of Columbia, 20002


Amount: \$500,000

Justification: Pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, which was signed into law on December 23, 2022, this project would fund a feasibility study conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers on a secondary drinking water source and additional drinking water storage capability for the region. The Potomac River is the metropolitan Washington region's primary source for drinking water, the only major metropolitan area of the country to have no redundancy built into its water supply. If there were an accidental chemical spill upstream, a natural disaster, severe drought, or a deliberate attack on the region's water infrastructure, there is no backup source for water storage or supply. A total loss of Potomac River water supply would lead to all of D.C. and Arlington losing water within 24 hours and much of Fairfax, VA and suburban Maryland losing water within days. The full impact of a water supply shortage is not fully known, but the potential for a humanitarian and economic crisis should not be underestimated. Recognizing its critical importance, Congress entrusted provision of water to our nation's capital to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which owns and operates the Washington Aqueduct. Due to the impact to all the numerous federal agencies residing in and around the nation's capital, resiliency of the water supply for the region requires action from the federal government in collaboration with the regional water utilities, as well as state and local partners, by working together to address this potentially devastating, but avoidable water supply challenge.

The project has a federal nexus because this project was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, which has been confirmed by the Baltimore District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

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

Best Regards,


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia