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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1313

April 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
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MATERIALS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Energy and Water Subcommittee
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Subcommittee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

As you prepare the Senate and House Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bills, we respectfully request that you include report language that supports the Navigation and Ecosystem Restoration Program (NESP) and urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to move forward with preconstruction engineering and design (PED) of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System projects authorized in Title VIII of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (PL 110-114).

Our nation's water infrastructure plays a critical role in maintaining our competitiveness in the global economy by ensuring the safe and efficient movement of goods to market, but the current backlog of outstanding water infrastructure projects pending before the Corps is putting that competitiveness at risk. Congress recognized the importance of modernizing our water infrastructure when it authorized NESP in 2007. NESP is an important, dual-purpose program that allows the Corps to address both navigation and ecosystem restoration in an integrated approach that will result in the expansion of seven outdated locks along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. Unfortunately, despite NESP's importance to our inland waterways system, few steps have been taken by the Corps to implement NESP since 2012.

To illustrate the broad bipartisan support in Congress for NESP and to urge the Corps to provide the funding needed to advance PED for the program, we request the inclusion of the following report language in the FY 2020 Energy and Water Appropriations bills:

The Committee recognizes the importance of advancing the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) for the Upper Mississippi region and our nation's economy and notes that Congress has already appropriated more than \$62 million in preconstruction engineering and design (PED) funding for this program. As such, the Committee urges the Corps to expeditiously complete the Economic Re-Evaluation Report (ERR) in order to move forward with preconstruction engineering and design (PED) and advance the projects authorized in Title VIII of the Water Resources and Development Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-114).

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We urge full consideration of this critical language directing the Corps to move forward with PED for NESP. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roddy Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".