

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2020 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide full funding for the National Dam Safety Program and for the High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Program at the authorized amounts.

Our nation's 91,468 dams provide essential benefits to our communities and the economy, including as a source of drinking water, irrigation, hydropower, flood control, and recreation. However, the average age of our nation's dams is 58 years old, and by 2023, seven out of ten dams in the U.S. will be over 50 years old. The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) estimates that the combined total cost to rehabilitate the nation's non-federal and federal dams exceeds \$64 billion, and the America Society of Civil Engineer's *2017 Infrastructure Report Card* gave our nation's dams a grade of "D." Fortunately, Congress has authorized two programs to address dam safety and rehabilitation – the National Dam Safety Program and the High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Program.

The National Dam Safety Program, reauthorized in the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (PL 115 – 270, Sec. 1163) provides federal grant assistance to state dam safety agencies for development of Emergency Action Plans, inspection of dams, and other dam safety program functions. It also provides training for dam safety engineers, dam safety research, the creation of a National Inventory of Dams (NID), and a public awareness and outreach program. The majority of our nation's dams are privately owned, which means that state dam safety programs are largely responsible for permitting, inspection, and enforcement. Since its inception over 30 years ago, the National Dam Safety Program has helped inventory the nearly 91,500 dams from across the country in the NID, assessing their condition and providing training and tools to state dam safety programs. Although state dam safety programs play a critical role in public safety, many of them lack sufficient resources to be effective. The National Dam Safety Program consistently receives funding below its fully authorized level.

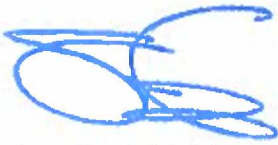
The High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Program, authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (PL 114 – 322, Sec. 5006), provides federal grant assistance for the rehabilitation, repair, or removal of non-federal high hazard potential dams, or those dams whose failure would result in the loss of life. Due to continued population growth and development in the U.S. below dams, the number of high hazard potential dams has been increasing; from 2005 to 2018, the number of high hazard potential dams in the nation grew from 10,213 to 15,629. The ASDSO estimates that it would cost nearly \$22 billion just to rehabilitate the nation's high hazard potential dams. When fully appropriated, the High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation

Program has the potential to help repair some of the highest priority dam safety rehabilitation projects in U.S.

Our nation's dams are critical infrastructure systems that provide vital services to our communities. Robust federal investment in the National Dam Safety Program and the High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Program is needed to improve dam safety programs around the country and to proactively repair, remove, rehabilitate our nation's highest priority deficient high hazard potential dams before they fail. Fully funding these risk reduction programs will protect local communities and economies while restoring our nation's world-class infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



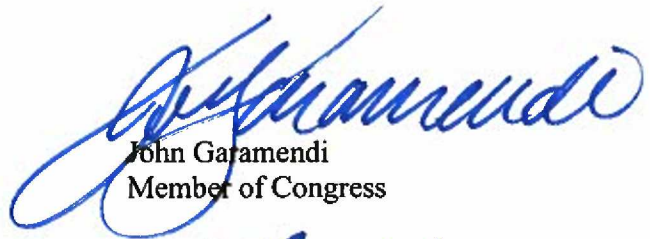
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



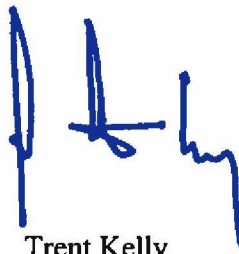
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



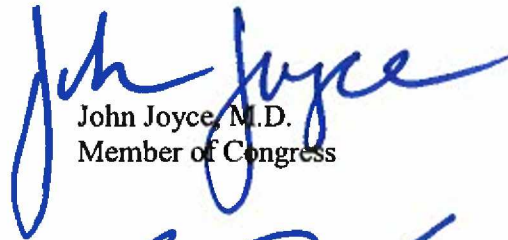
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson, IV D.M.D.
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

cc: Representatives Marcy Kaptur and Mike Simpson, Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies