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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
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SUBCOMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3817

April 29, 2014

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The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As the Subcommittee works to develop the FY 2015 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, I am writing to request increased and robust funding for the Section 205 Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) of the Army Corps of Engineers.

As noted in the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act's Explanatory Statement, the various sections of the Continuing Authorities Program enable the Corps to undertake small projects without the lengthy study and authorization process typical of many larger Corps projects. Section 205 projects, in particular, pertain to the study, design, and construction of small flood control systems that are undertaken in partnership with non-Federal government agencies.

As you know, for each CAP section, funds have traditionally been allocated using a project funding stage-based sequence of steps until the funds are exhausted. Funds for projects not previously funded for the applicable phase have been ranked lowest on the nationwide priority listing.

In practice, this means that many deserving new starts are rarely funded. As a result, there is now a significant backlog of un-started projects; as of the end of FY 2011, the federal share of these projects amounted to \$206,000,000, according to CRS estimates.

Thus, I am writing to request that the Subcommittee provide significantly increased funding for flood control projects under Section 205. Doing so would ensure the Corps could begin to reduce the backlog of new starts competing for CAP funding. Since these projects often provide an economic benefit to the local, regional, and national economy, it is worth reexamining the FY 2014 level of appropriations (\$15,000,000).

Thank you for considering this request. Should you have any questions please contact Jeremy Marcus on my staff at Jeremy.Marcus@mail.house.gov or by telephone at (202) 225-5546.

Sincerely,



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress