

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2019

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

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

Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Subcommittee Chairwoman Kaptur, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Simpson,

As you work to finalize the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to strike language that has prohibited the development or implementation of Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines (PR&G) for the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), that has been included in previous iterations of the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill since 2013, and include language that would support the implementation of PR&G by the Corps.

The clause we recommend should be struck is currently on page 13 of the FY2019 Energy and Water Development bill and reads:

No funds provided to the Corps of Engineers shall be used to develop or implement rules or guidance to support implementation of the final Principles and Requirements for Federal Investments in Water Resources released in March 2013 or the final Interagency Guidelines released in December 2014.

In practice, the inserted language erects a standing ban on implementing the 2013 Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines (PR&G) which effectively narrows the Army Corp's recommended projects to those that maximize net economic benefit and funds projects based economic benefit to cost ratios, which under-serves disadvantaged communities, does not address life safety impacts associated with flood risk nor gives weight to ecological and habitat restoration projects in the Army Corp's annual work plan.

Implementing PR&G was endorsed by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote in the 2007 WRDA not once, but twice, when both chambers of Congress overrode of the Presidential veto. Congress sent a clear signal that the Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and

Related Land Resources Implementation Studies (P&G) in effect since 1983 (and still today) are outdated.

By striking this prohibitive language that has been included in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations vehicle since 2013, bipartisan, bicameral efforts that brought forth the 2007 WRDA can be realized. Including language in the upcoming Energy and Water Development Bill to enable USACE to develop Agency Specific Procedures prior to implementing the PR&G, would permit a more holistic set of criteria to be used to take into consideration the full range of environmental, economic and social benefits to maximize the public benefits relative to the cost of USACE projects.

We urge you to include these important, long-overdue changes to the language of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill language.

Sincerely,



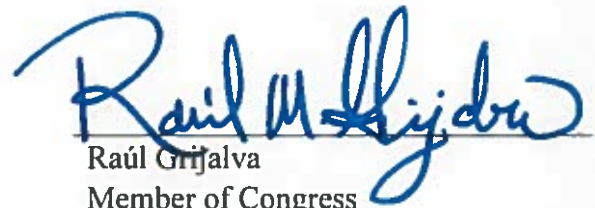
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Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
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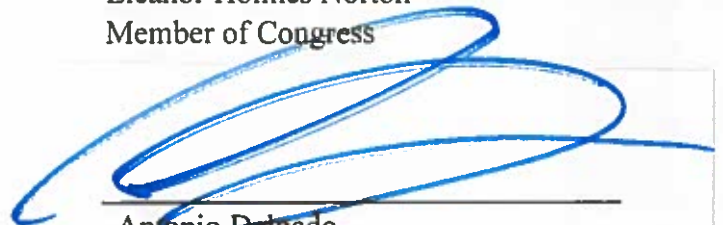
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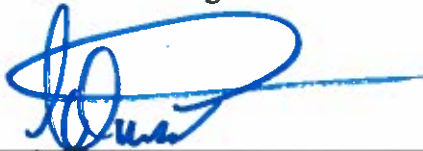
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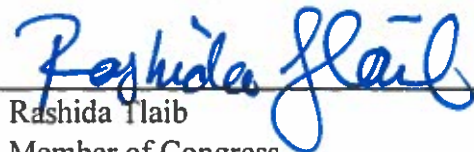
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Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Rashida Haib
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Jared Huffman
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Tom O'Halleran
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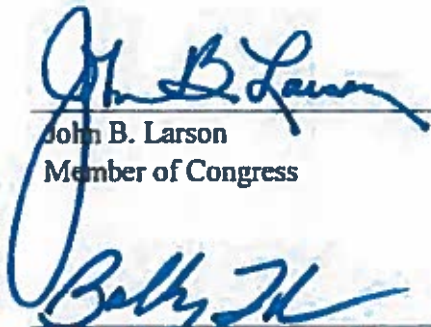
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