

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
2358-A Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
2362-B Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

We ask for your support for further and additional funding for the Upper Ohio Navigation Project as part of the FY20 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

This project through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works Program, Investigations Account for preconstruction, engineering and design (PED) has received \$10.3 million in funding to date and we appreciate the Subcommittee's past support for it. The Investigations Account was funded at \$125 million in the 2019 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, which is \$48 million higher than the FY20 budget request of \$77 million. Accordingly, we respectfully request the highest possible increase above the \$77 million requested in the Administration's FY20 proposed budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works Program, Investigations Account, where the Upper Ohio Navigation Project could compete for funding.

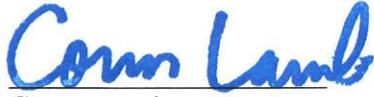
As the easternmost gateway of the Inland Waterways System, the Port of Pittsburgh has a strategic location in moving freight to and from the Northeastern and Middle Atlantic regions. The three locks on the Upper Ohio River that are included in the Upper Ohio Navigation Project are the oldest of the entire Ohio River system. They are all more than 70 years old. The current condition of these locks is a state of critical structural and operational degradation. They are increasingly at risk of structural or operational failure that could halt navigation for a year or longer. This type of a major failure would effectively close the entire Port of Pittsburgh and would greatly impact the steel and energy industries that are essential to our national security and our regional economies in Western Pennsylvania, the Great Lakes Region, and beyond. In addition to impacting commercial freight, pool loss from a failure would affect municipal and industrial water intakes, recreation, and wildlife habitats in all of our districts.

Furthermore, in addition to these funds, we ask for your consideration for other important funding levels within the USACE Civil Works Program appropriations that are vital to our shared interests in making certain that we have safe and reliable infrastructure including \$330 million for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund construction account, which will maintain the same level of funding for projects that Congress provided in FY19, and also providing a FY20

Operations & Maintenance funding level at or above the \$3.740 billion level provided in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2019.

Thank you for your consideration of funding for these important programs.

Sincerely,



Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress