

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Interior  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to thank you for your past support of the National Estuary Program (NEP), and ask you to continue to invest directly in the stewardship of our nation's coasts by ensuring that each of the 28 NEPs in the field receives full funding in FY2018.

Each National Estuary Program:

- Demonstrates real environmental results through on-the-ground habitat restoration and protection.
- Reflects local environmental and economic priorities
- Involves the community as equal partners and engages the public throughout the decision making process
- Demonstrates the ability to secure and leverage funds from multiple sources
- Ensures decisions are based on the best science available
- Builds on water quality control measures and tailors them to specific places and communities
- Is non-regulatory

In recent years, NEPs have been on the front lines of issues that demand a scientifically informed, community-based approach. As you know, NEP reforms were made during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress through S.1523, which created a competitive grant program to address urgent challenges. We are asking for an additional \$5 million of funding to support competitive grants for qualifying NEPs.


As the health of our costal ecosystems decline, NEPs work to ensure that federal agencies work together with state, regional, NGO and private partners to better manage ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of the nation and to reduce conflicts, redundancies, and inefficiencies that waste time and money. The people who live and work near and on our estuaries have the greatest stake in sound coastal management, best understand the unique challenges and opportunities in those places, and know the right stakeholders to engage in crafting durable and effective solutions. NEPs play a key role in implementing national policies that result in better,

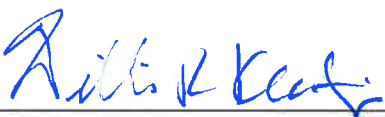
more cost-effective coastal management that benefits states and local communities. Thank you for your strong support of these programs, and for considering our request.


If you have any questions please reach out to Matthew Moran in Rep. LoBiondo's office ([matt.moran@mail.house.gov](mailto:matt.moran@mail.house.gov) or 5-6572) or Brandon Kaufman in Rep. Larsen's office ([Brandon.kaufman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brandon.kaufman@mail.house.gov) or 5-2605). Thank you for your support.


Sincerely,


  
Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

  
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

  
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

  
Frank Pallone Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

  
Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



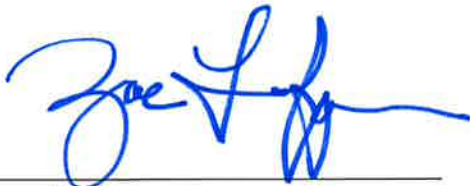
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress



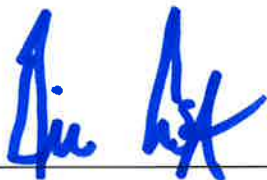
Donald M. Payne Jr.  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Val Butler Demings  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



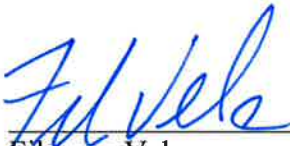
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



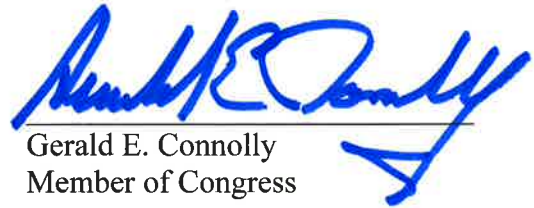
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



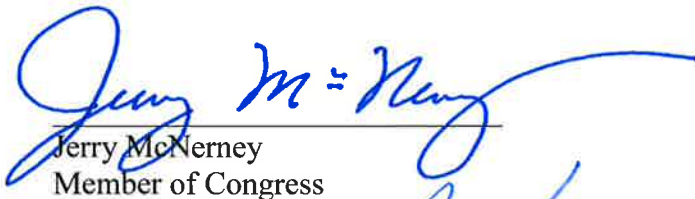
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Thomas MacArthur  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
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John P. Sarbanes  
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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress





Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



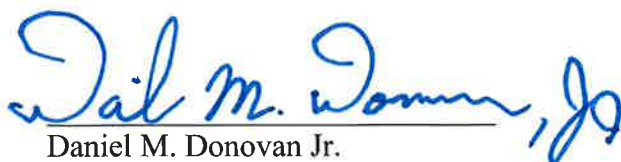
Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress




Hakeem S. Jefferies  
Member of Congress



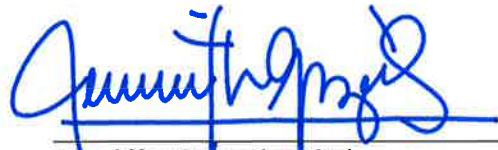
Daniel M. Donovan Jr.  
Member of Congress



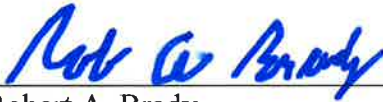
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



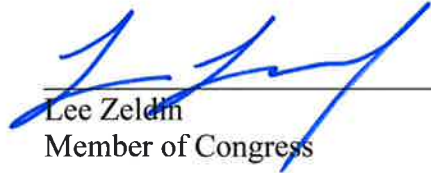
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon  
Member of Congress



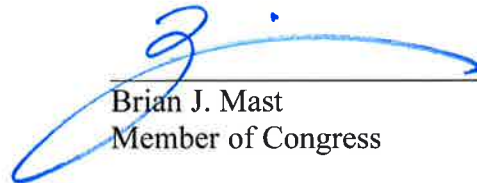
Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



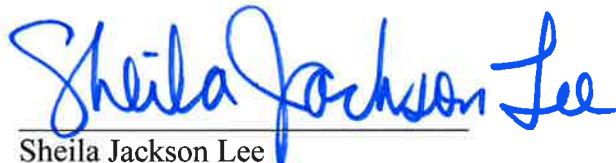
Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Brian J. Mast  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress