

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy
& Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy
& Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6024

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you prepare final fiscal year 2016 appropriations legislation, we respectfully request that you include language as adopted by the Senate (see attachment) that directs six new construction starts at the Corps of Engineers, at least one being either a navigation or flood risk management project that utilizes a Public-Private Partnership.

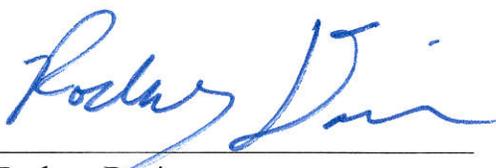
As you may recall, 22 Members of the House wrote to you last spring in bipartisan letter seeking the inclusion of language in the House version of the fiscal year 2016 Energy and Water Development Appropriations to fund Section 5104 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). We were pleased that the Subcommittee included language (see attachment) directing the Corps of Engineers to submit a report detailing any work to date on developing public-private partnerships, among other things.

To ensure that critical water infrastructure projects can obtain full funding using alternative funding mechanisms, Congress authorized such funding under Section 5014 of the WRRDA of 2014. This provision offers a cost effective and bipartisan solution to addressing our Nation's backlog of water infrastructure projects.

We recognize the tough budgetary decisions you will be making over the next several weeks. It is our hope that the bipartisan budget deal signed into law by the President will afford you some relief in making such decisions.

We remain committed to this critically important language, and more importantly a bipartisan appropriations measure that we can all support.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



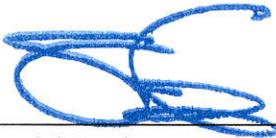
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



John Delaney
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



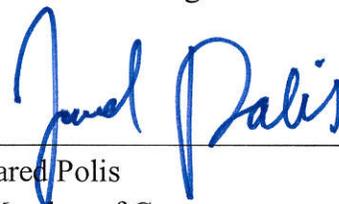
Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

S. Rpt. 114-54, p. 23

Public-Private Partnerships.—The Committee notes that the Secretary and the Chief of Engineers expressed strong support for a public-private partnerships [Partnership] as a method to reduce the Federal cost of future construction projects. The acronyms P3, P4, etcetera are interchangeable and represent the number of public and/or private entities that comprise the Partnership. The Committee believes the Corps of Engineers should demonstrate the value of projects that use a Partnership model and directs that, of the six new construction starts, at least one shall be either a navigation or flood risk management project that utilizes such a Partnership. The Committee further directs that the selected Partnership project should have a Chief's Report showing a benefit-cost ratio greater than one for the Federal investment only, but shall not be subject to any other restrictions applicable to traditional construction new starts to ensure that multiple projects qualify for selection as a Partnership project.

H. Rpt. 114-91, p. 61

Public-Private Partnership Program.—The Committee is aware of the strong support of many Members of the House of Representatives for the public-private partnership (P3) program authorized in section 5014 of WRRDA 2014. As part of its Civil Works Transformation initiative, the Corps has been discussing for several years the idea of public-private partnerships as a project delivery tool to help sustain the performance of existing infrastructure and construct new infrastructure more quickly. Water resource projects are different from more traditional P3 projects in key ways, however, and these issues need to be addressed before a P3 program could be viable. The Corps is directed to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act a report detailing any work to date on developing public-private partnerships generally and on implementing section 5014 specifically (including a schedule for issuing implementation guidance). The report also shall include a list of any demonstration projects being evaluated and a detailed description of the goals, advances, and remaining challenges for each such demonstration project.