April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for work in the UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER - ILLINOIS WW SYSTEM, IL, IA, MN, MO & WI program (NESP) in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Rock Island District of the Army Corps of Engineers, located at 1500 Rock Island Drive, Rock Island, IL 61201.

Our nation’s water infrastructure plays a critical role in maintaining our competitiveness in the global economy by ensuring the safe and efficient movement of goods to market, but the current backlog of outstanding water infrastructure projects pending before the Corps is putting that competitiveness at risk. NESP is an important, dual-purpose program that allows the Corps to address both navigation and ecosystem restoration in an integrated approach that will result in the expansion of seven outdated locks along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. Thankfully, NESP was granted a new start in FY22 and funding for construction to update Lock 25. However, six NESP locks still remain to be updated. Providing $25 million for Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) for the next lock in the queue, LaGrange Lock, would allow this critical program to continue. NESP is tailor-made for Community Project Funding because the program will provide a positive economic benefit by facilitating both a healthier economy and river ecosystem through the creation of millions of jobs for skilled construction trades and improvement in the efficiency of intermodal supply chains. The entity receiving the funding for this project is the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District. Funding will continue the modernization efforts on NESP locks to increase efficiency and reduce congestion on our inland waterways systems.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress