

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

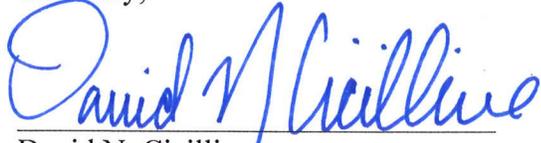
As you develop the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2017, we write to respectfully urge you to include language directing the Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize aging wastewater management systems in financially distressed municipalities when considering projects funded through its general construction fund.

The Clean Water Act requires water and sewage treatment plants to maintain federally mandated standards to keep our water supply safe and sustainable. About 72% of the population is served by sewage treatment plants, but 3.8 million of those people are served by facilities providing less than secondary treatment, which is a basic requirement by federal law. Often, the financial burden to meet these requirements falls on state and local governments. This can leave communities experiencing particular financial distress with outdated infrastructure and facing down huge costs to bring them in line with requirements. This affects all of us, as aging wastewater management systems discharge billions of gallons of untreated sewage into U.S. surface waters each year.

Federal assistance has not kept pace with the needs of wastewater treatment systems, despite the fact that authorities agree that funding needs remain very high. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the country will need to invest \$271 billion over the next 20 years to replace existing systems and build new ones to meet demand. It is critical that we ensure wastewater improvement projects are sufficiently funded and are prioritized to reflect the needs of the community.

We thank you for your continued support for water infrastructure improvement projects. We urge you to include language directing The Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize invaluable wastewater and water improvements assistance to financially strapped communities through its general construction fund.

Sincerely,



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



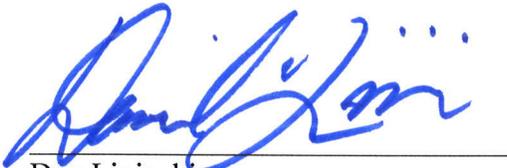
John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



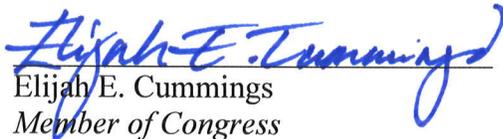
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



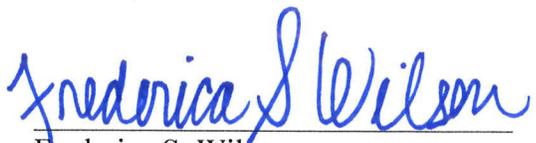
Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress