



COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting community project funding for the Upper Mississippi River – Illinois WW System, IL, IA, MN, MO, & WI in the Fiscal Year 2023 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies legislation.

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

Our nation's water infrastructure plays a vital role in maintaining our competitiveness economically around the world by ensuring the safe and efficient transport of goods to market, however the current backlog of water infrastructure projects pending before the Corps is damaging our competitiveness. Congress recognized the value of modernizing our water infrastructure when it authorized NESP in 2007. NESP is an important program that allows the Corps to address both navigation and ecosystem restoration in an integrated approach resulting in the expansion of seven outdated locks along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. NESP was granted a new start in FY22 including funding for construction to update Lock 25. However, six NESP locks still need updating. Providing \$25 million for Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) for the next lock in the queue, LaGrange Lock, would allow this critical program to move forward. NESP would be a valuable Community Project Funding request because the program will provide a positive economic benefit by facilitating a stronger, more robust economy and river ecosystem, create millions of jobs for skilled construction trades, and improve the efficiency of supply chains. Funding will continue the modernization efforts on NESP locks to increase efficiency and reduce congestion on our inland waterways.

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

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress