

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair of House Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair of Senate Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Chair DeLauro, and Chair Leahy,

Thank you for your leadership and work to advance appropriations bills through regular order for the 2022 fiscal year. We write this letter to express our strong support for the \$1.2M dollars allocated for the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) efforts in the FY 2022 Energy and Water Senate Bill and report language accompanying the House bill.¹² These efforts will strength the estuary and restore wetland habitats. As you know, New York City and New Jersey have suffered from historic levels of flooding and storm surges over the past few decades. Restoring these wetlands will help mitigate flooding and storm surge, as well prevent erosion, ensure adequate groundwater levels and base flow, assimilate nutrients, and protect drinking water sources. By passing the \$1.2 million in funding in the Senate’s Energy and Water Bill for the HRE program, we can help catapult the following projects forward:

- Bronx Zoo and Stone Mill Dam (New York’s 13th, 14th, and 16th Congressional Districts)
- Stony Creek Marsh Island in Jamaica Bay (New York’s 5th and 8th Congressional Districts)
- Flushing Creek (New York’s 6th Congressional District)
- Lower Passaic River (New Jersey’s 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th Congressional District)
- Hackensack Meadowlands (New Jersey’s 9th Congressional District)
- Oysters at Naval Station Earle in Lower Bay (New Jersey’s 6th Congressional District)

These projects will provide the New York and New Jersey harbor area with enormous benefits that will improve wildlife quality of life, as well as mitigate damages to human infrastructure. The goals of these projects are to restore approximately 381 acres of estuarine wetland habitat, 50 acres of freshwater riverine wetland habitat, and 27 acres of coastal and maritime forest habitat. In addition to this, a total of 1.6 miles of stream banks and 72 acres of stream beds and channels would be restored. If passed into law, the HRE funding will allow for the rehabilitation of 39 acres of shallow water habitat, 52 acres of oyster habitat, the inclusion of two fish ladders to re-introduce and expand

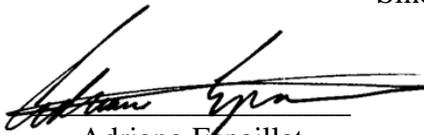
¹ U.S Senate (2021) Energy and Water Senate Appropriations Bill, 2022 (Online)
<https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/files/4211/referencing.pdf> [Accessed 12/1/2021]

² <https://www.congress.gov/117/crpt/hrpt98/CRPT-117hrpt98.pdf>

fish passages and control the flow rate volume along particularly the Bronx River. This investment holds long-term benefits and prevents large-scale degradation in the HRE. The result of these investments will cause drastic improvement to the anadromous fish population by improving quantity, but also expanding quality of habitat and life. In addition, these investments provide long term sediment stabilization while also reigning in shoreline erosion, which is crucial to New York and New Jersey’s ability to mitigate flooding and habitat destruction along our rivers.

Overall, this funding is crucial to the viability and sustainability of the Hudson Raritan Estuary, and necessary to the long-term safety of constituents of New Jersey’s 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th and New York’s 5th, 6th, 8th, 13th, 14th, and 16th Districts, along with those in neighboring Districts. That is why we are urging you to include the Senate FY 2022 Energy and Water \$1.2M dollars allocated for the Hudson Raritan Estuary and the House report language in the final FY 2022 final conference agreement. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Frank Pallone
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Donald Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Tom Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

CC:

Colonel Matthew W. Luzzatto, US Army Corps of Engineers, 26 Federal Plaza, Rm 17-302, New York, NY 10278

Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000