March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Interior
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior
Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to thank you for your past support of the National Estuary Program (NEP), and ask you to continue to invest directly in the stewardship of our nation’s coasts by ensuring that each of the 28 NEPs in the field receives full funding in FY2018.

Each National Estuary Program:

- Demonstrates real environmental results through on-the-ground habitat restoration and protection.
- Reflects local environmental and economic priorities
- Involves the community as equal partners and engages the public throughout the decision making process
- Demonstrates the ability to secure and leverage funds from multiple sources
- Ensures decisions are based on the best science available
- Builds on water quality control measures and tailors them to specific places and communities
- Is non-regulatory

In recent years, NEPs have been on the front lines of issues that demand a scientifically informed, community-based approach. As you know, NEP reforms were made during the 114th Congress through S.1523, which created a competitive grant program to address urgent challenges. We are asking for an additional $5 million of funding to support competitive grants for qualifying NEPs.

As the health of our costal ecosystems decline, NEPs work to ensure that federal agencies work together with state, regional, NGO and private partners to better manage ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of the nation and to reduce conflicts, redundancies, and inefficiencies that waste time and money. The people who live and work near and on our estuaries have the greatest stake in sound coastal management, best understand the unique challenges and opportunities in those places, and know the right stakeholders to engage in crafting durable and effective solutions. NEPs play a key role in implementing national policies that result in better,
more cost-effective coastal management that benefits states and local communities. Thank you for your strong support of these programs, and for considering our request.

If you have any questions please reach out to Matthew Moran in Rep. LoBiondo’s office (matt.moran@mail.house.gov or 5-6572) or Brandon Kaufman in Rep. Larsen’s office (Brandon.kaufman@mail.house.gov or 5-2605). Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone Jr.  
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Thomas MacArthur
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress
Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

Garret Graves  
Member of Congress

Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress

Daniel M. Donovan Jr.  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress  

Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon  
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Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress  

Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress  

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress  

Brian J. Mast  
Member of Congress  

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress  

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress