

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19th, 2014

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jim Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Reed and Calvert and Ranking Members Murkowski and Moran:

As you negotiate a final FY2015 appropriations package for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we urge you to accept the House proposal to provide \$2 million to assist communities develop Integrated Plans under the EPA's Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework.

Twenty-one New Jersey communities manage their wastewater and stormwater through Combined Sewer Systems that experience overflows of partially treated sewage during storm events. These communities have recently been notified by the EPA and New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection that they must develop Long Term Control Plans in order to reduce or eliminate these combined sewer overflows (CSO). Addressing our state's CSO challenge will potentially cost New Jersey ratepayers several billions of dollars.

EPA's Integrated Planning approach can potentially save New Jersey's communities hundreds of millions of dollars. However, in order for them to be able to make this program work for them, communities must develop an Integrated Plan outlining water quality goals, human health and regulatory issues that they need to address, an assessment of existing systems, an evaluation of a communities' financial capability, an evaluation of cost-effective approaches for addressing identified issues, metrics to measure success, and a process for incorporating adaptive management techniques. The planning process will require significant stakeholder input and

engineering design. Funding assistance to undertake and develop these plans would be very helpful to these communities.

The \$2 million set-aside in the FY15 House EPA proposed appropriations package would provide 50 percent cost share grants to communities facing these challenges and enable our New Jersey communities to take advantage of this EPA Integrated Planning Approach initiative. We therefore urge you to accept the House proposal in final FY15 conference negotiations.

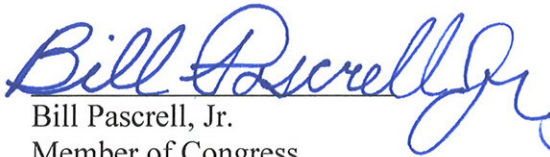
Sincerely,



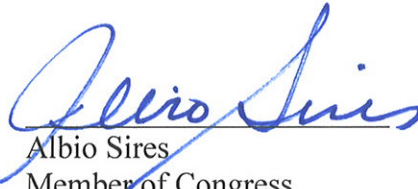
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress