

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior and Environment
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior and Environment
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Congresswoman McCollum:

As the Interior and Environment Appropriations subcommittee considers its Fiscal Year 2016 priorities, we want to thank you for your leadership. We respectfully request that you support a pilot project to assist communities in successfully implementing plans under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Integrated Planning Initiative.

The Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework outlines a flexible approach to help communities meet their regulatory obligations under the Clean Water Act (CWA). If successfully implemented, the Framework could help communities more affordably manage their clean water responsibilities while maintaining water quality standards.

For this approach to succeed, communities must develop an Integrated Plan outlining water quality goals and several reports evaluating cost, benefits, and detailed plans for projects. States and the EPA would then evaluate the Integrated Plans with final implementation remaining in the hands of the municipality. The Integrated Planning process will help enable communities establish CWA regulatory priorities, create affordable implementation schedules, and save millions of dollars.

Communities all over the country face financial pressure to maintain critical services for their residents, including education, fire and safety and critical public health infrastructure like clean drinking water. We respectfully urge you to recognize the economic benefits this program will provide countless municipalities across the United States and thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress