

ROBERT E. LATTA  
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY  
REPUBLICAN LEADER

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER  
PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3505**

April 18, 2022

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2467 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-6405

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
1045 NORTH MAIN STREET  
SUITE 6  
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402  
(419) 354-8700

101 CLINTON STREET  
SUITE 1200  
DEFIANCE, OH 43512  
(419) 782-1996

318 DORNEY PLAZA  
ROOM 302  
FINDLAY, OH 45840  
(419) 422-7791

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Programs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David P. Joyce  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
and Related Programs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I kindly request on behalf of my constituents that you consider the following request:

**Integrated Planning (IP)**

This submission requests the U.S. EPA utilize funding under its budget to further facilitate and enhance EPA's Integrated Planning (IP) activities and ensure local communities are able to fully utilize this critical tool to sequence and prioritize how they meet their specific clean water obligations and long-term infrastructure needs and better manage costs over time for their public ratepayers.

At the end of 2018, Congress passed the bipartisan Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) (Public Law No: 115-436), which codified EPA's 2012 Integrated Planning (IP) Framework to provide local communities with critical flexibilities in meeting their Clean Water Act (CWA) obligations and ensure residents continue receiving safe, reliable, and affordable clean water services.

It takes significant work by a community, a state regulatory agency, and the EPA to develop and craft an integrated planning approach from conception to implementation. EPA has provided some assistance to states and local governments by offering a free IP technical review from the Environmental Finance Centers at the University of Maryland and University of North Carolina.

While this assistance is helpful, much more is needed, and the Agency has yet to fully provide states in particular with the necessary guidance on how to review and appropriately consider

integrated plans put forward by communities. Additional funding would help with more information and guidance on the initial steps, knowledge, and resources needed to begin the IP process and how to best utilize it to meet CWA obligations and incorporate integrated planning concepts in CWA municipal permits.

The funding support under this request is key to ensuring the EPA will be able to advance efforts at the state and local levels and ensure communities have the ability to develop an IP to make needed clean water capital investments, meet compliance obligations in a more targeted and affordable manner, and provide increased human health and water quality benefits throughout a community.

Specifically, we recommend the following programmatic language:

Provide dedicated funding under EPA Environmental Programs and Management to support water quality protection integrated planning activities under Section 402(s) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(s)).

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if you need any additional information or would like to learn more about the positive impacts this can have on countless communities across the country, both large and small.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. Latta". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress