

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

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

The Honorable David P. Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
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, we kindly request on behalf of our constituents that you consider the following programmatic request:

Integrated Planning (IP)

This request would provide \$2 million to further facilitate and enhance U.S. 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 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 however and the Agency has yet to fully provide states in particular with needed guidance on how to review and appropriately consider integrated plans put forth by communities. Additional funding will also 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 under this request that would be provided to EPA will be key to helping the Agency 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:


\$2 million for 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.

Sincerely,



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress