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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING AND
TRADE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN
AFRICA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Passaic River Regional Flooding Mitigation Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Township of Berkeley Heights, located at 29 Park Avenue, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922.

The funding would be used for the clearing of major obstructions from Passaic River tributaries and the shoring up of stream banks in the river towns of Berkeley Heights, Long Hill, New Providence, Summit, and Chatham Borough, which will decrease area flooding and soil erosion, while improving and protecting soils and water quality.

Many municipalities in the Passaic River Basin have experienced repeated and severe flooding events in recent years, resulting in significant public safety hazards, damage to public infrastructure, damage to property, roadway closures, emergency response impacts, and disruption to residents and businesses.

This project will focus on strategic, environmentally responsible de-snagging and debris removal in the most-clogged stretches of the tributaries leading into the Passaic River, representing an important flood mitigation strategy to improve the hydraulic capacity of the river tributaries and reduce flood risk.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will responsibly mitigate flooding and protect residents, small businesses, and local and regional economic productivity.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized by the Soil Conservation and Allotment Domestic Act of 1935, 16 U.S. Code sections 590a-590d and 590f-g.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom H. Kean, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress