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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMISSION ON CHINA

CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL  
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CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

[www.chrissmith.house.gov](http://www.chrissmith.house.gov)

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

I write to you today to request funding in fiscal year 2025 for a greatly needed wastewater treatment improvement project needed by the Ocean County Utilities Authority (Authority) which effectively treats wastewater at three wastewater treatment plants for 33 municipalities across 2 counties, including the Central Water Pollution Control Facilities (CWPCF) located at 501 Hickory Lane, Bayville, NJ 08721.

This project, **Area Wide Pump Station Hydraulic, Piping and Valve Improvements, Project No. AW1909**, is estimated to cost \$3,500,000. The Authority has stated in writing its commitment to match up to 20 percent of the cost of this project.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it promotes the goals of the Clean Water Act, including enhancing public health, safety, and welfare, and extending the useful life of wastewater infrastructure. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

The scope of project includes the replacement of aging isolation valves, check valves, slide gates, and channel covers at several pump stations throughout Ocean County. Additionally, this project would allow for reconfiguration of outdated valving and piping interfaces built in the 1970s which no longer reflect industry best practices.

The majority of the valving and piping throughout the Ocean County Utility Authority wastewater conveyance system are original and do not lend themselves to thorough examination. Proper maintenance and evaluation of these systems are critical in maintaining the health and safety of residences, as well as ensuring wastewater does not pollute critical waterways such as Barnegat Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Project No. AW1909 includes the replacement of isolation valves and check valves at: Lavallette Pump Station CPS-1; Ocean-Birdsall Pump Station CPS-7, and; South Toms River-Flint Road Pump Station CPS-9. The project also includes the replacement of slide gates and channel covers at Berkeley-Veeder Lane Lift Station CPS-13.

Please note this project is a collaborative effort by the Authority, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and local stakeholders committed to improving the reliability of regional wastewater treatment assets serving over 260,000 residents and visitors to Ocean County.

The county is planning for smart growth. In fact, the 2010 Census showed the population of the county to be 576,567. Only 10 years later the 2020 Census showed the county grew to 648,998, an increase of 60,662 people, or over a 10.5 percent increase. This growth demands that the Authority modernize its resources to serve the public.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project to improve water pollution control for this growing county.

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

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress