

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) - Bronx Zoo Dam and Stone Mill Dam in Fiscal Year 2027.

The entity to receive funding for this project is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, located at 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278.

The funding would be used to remove the Bronx Zoo Dam and the Stone Mill Dam in order to restore fish passage for native diadromous fish; improve water quality; improve educational and recreational opportunities; and support fisheries by providing habitat for important prey fish in the Bronx River. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it leverages an existing cost-shared partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers to deliver permanent environmental, ecological, and public health benefits to one of New York City's most underserved communities, building on 25 years of coordinated public investment in Bronx River restoration.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in Section 401(5) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

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

Sincerely,



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

