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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Upper Ohio, Allegheny and Beaver Counties, PA (Montgomery Lock and Dam) in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, located at 441 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20314.

The funding would be used for The Upper Ohio Navigation Project is part of the National Economic Development (NED) plan for improving the upper Ohio River navigation system, specifically the Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery locks and dams. Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery, each constructed prior to 1936, are the first three locks and dams on the Ohio River downstream of the Point of Pittsburgh. These facilities have the oldest and smallest lock chambers in the entire Ohio River Navigation System. The project replaces each auxiliary lock chamber (56' wide by 360' long) with a new lock chamber (110' by 600') at each facility. This new lock chamber would serve as the new main lock chamber. Montgomery lock design and a significant portion of construction was funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law having received \$857,708,000. Due to unanticipated cost escalation from inflation and other market conditions, completion of the Montgomery Lock will require additional funding to complete. To-date, two contracts have been awarded and are going, the Concrete Batch Plant Site Development which is 72% complete and the Esplanade Site Development which is 45% complete. Funding in FY25 is needed to award the next major contract for the New River Chamber, scheduled for award in Fall 2024.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because by safely moving America's cargo at the lowest cost, barge transportation plays a vital role not just to our Nation's economy, but in preserving our environment and limiting traffic congestion through our neighborhoods. Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional District, the state of Pennsylvania, and the nation's economy all benefit directly from the construction of lock and dam infrastructure on the Upper Ohio River. Pennsylvania has nearly 260 miles of navigable inland waterways supporting nearly 184,000

jobs and giving rise to \$4.8 billion in state and local tax revenue. Modernizing the Montgomery locks would allow larger and more efficient vessels to move through the river, which improves our nation's competitiveness and boosts the regional economy. Modernizing the locks would create jobs and spur growth in the region and stimulate economic activity throughout the supply chain.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by P.L. 114-322

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

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher R. Deluzio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible script.

Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress