



June 4, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the more than six million residents in the greater Washington D.C. region served by the undersigned members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we write to thank you for advancing the 2022 Water Resources Development Act out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This legislation contains important regional water security and resiliency provisions that we believe will fortify and advance the overall protections of the communities we serve.

Specifically, we are grateful for the committee's inclusion in section 201 (13) of authorization for a feasibility study on diversifying the water supply for Washington, D.C., suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia, including identification of supplemental water supply. The lack of this capacity for the region is a key resiliency and national security concern that must be addressed. The authorization of this study is a strong first step towards greater resiliency in the region.

We appreciate your leadership advancing this important matter and look forward to working with your colleagues in the Senate to ensure the feasibility study is included in the final, conferenced version of the 2022 Water Resources Development Act that receives full passage and is signed into law.

Thank you,

Amy Jackson – Chair, COG Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee
Mark J. Schwartz – County Manager, Arlington County, Virginia
David L. Gadis – General Manager and CEO, DC Water
Mike Nardolilli – Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Marc Elrich – County Executive, Montgomery County, Maryland
Carla Reid – General Manager and CEO, WSSC Water

CC:

The Honorable Peter Defazio, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Grace Napolitano, Chair, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

The Honorable David Rouzer, Ranking Member, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee