

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 30, 2017

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Homeland Security  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Homeland Security  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Tester:

As you develop the FY 2018 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$10 million, as authorized, for the High Hazard Potential Dam Safety program.

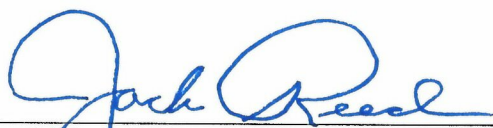
Enacted in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) of 2016, this program provides federal grant assistance for the rehabilitation, repair, or removal of non-federal high hazard potential dams; those dams where failure is probable to cause loss of human life and endanger population centers and ecosystems. This grant program enables state and local governments, as well as non-profit organizations, to enter into partnerships in order to address safety issues concerning dams that are not covered by other federal dam safety programs.

According to the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO), there are approximately 15,500 high hazard potential dams – at least one in almost every state. Moreover, in the American Society of Civil Engineers’ (ASCE) most recent report card, dam safety received a D. This poor grade is due to aging infrastructure. The average age of dams in the United States is 56 years, and as a consequence, the “number of high-hazard potential dams is increasing.” ASCE notes that “[u]ntil this program is funded a lack of financial resources will continue to be a reason dam owners are unable to implement needed repairs and upgrades.”

The grants provided by the High Hazard Potential Dam Safety program would aid states in taking proactive steps to ensure dam failure does not lead to loss of life and property. By including \$10 million to assist in the repair and removal of high hazard dams before they fail, we can make an investment in future cost savings as well as the safety of local communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

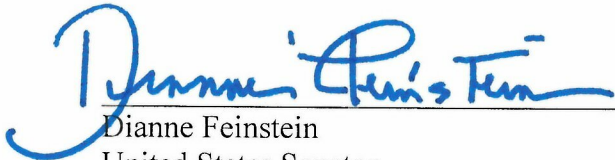
Sincerely,




Jack Reed  
United States Senator

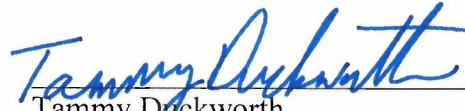



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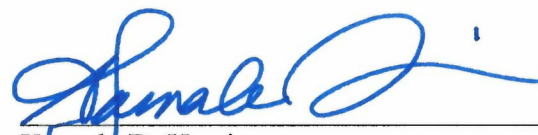
  
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