

**JAMES P. MORAN**  
8TH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA



**WASHINGTON OFFICE:**  
2239 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4608  
(202) 225-4376  
FAX: (202) 225-0017

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
DEFENSE  
INTERIOR  
LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION

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

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
333 N FAIRFAX STREET  
SUITE 201  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314  
(703) 971-4700  
FAX: (703) 922-9436

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND  
POLICY COMMITTEE

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

December 3, 2009

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2163 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my request for water development projects in need of congressional authorization.

Unfortunately, two of my highest priorities, where property and safety are at stake, may not satisfy the benefit to cost ratio to qualify for federal funding. Both projects are nearing the completion of the investigative stage under the Flood Plain Management program. I believe that the current strictures may have deleterious effects on low and moderate income communities where lower property values, especially in the wake of the mortgage crisis, may preclude much-needed Army Corps intervention.

In Fairfax County, the New Alexandria and Belle View subdivisions both experienced severe flooding from the tidal surge during Hurricane Isabel in September 2003 damaging over 200 structures and isolating many more during the event. The majority of both subdivisions lies within the 100-year floodplain and are vulnerable to future flooding. Similarly, in June, 2006 the Huntington community experienced devastating flooding which affected over 160 homes by Cameron Run—this community faces at least a 100 year flood threat. In both cases the affected communities would benefit from the construction of floodwalls and/or levees as well as pumping stations and other flood control measures which would be both feasible and cost-effective. I would like to work with you on constructive changes in law to ensure that communities like Belle View, New Alexandria and Huntington will qualify for the Corps' assistance. But first let me highlight some general concerns I have with the existing Corps programs.

Additionally, most of the existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in my district are still under investigation and are not ready to go to construction. I have been troubled by the length of time it takes for the Corps to complete these investigative studies. This will be the ninth year that I am seeking an Energy and Water appropriation to complete the Corps' study of

the Four Mile Run restoration project. With the exception of fiscal year 2007, all of my requests have been funded through Energy and Water appropriations. Yet each year, the Corps needs an additional infusion of funds to complete the study. When resources are limited and ongoing projects appear to go on indefinitely, other worthwhile projects cannot proceed. I encourage you to consider policy changes that would expedite the time it takes for general investigations to be completed in an environmentally responsible manner.

Since there are segments of the Four Mile Run project ready for construction, I am submitting a request for an authorization for the construction of in-stream improvements as a part of the demonstration project being carried out under the authority of Section 216, P.L. 91-611. These include the demolition of gabions and disposal of debris, stream restoration and reforestation, bank stabilization, toe protection, the creation of wetland bars and step-pool grade control in the various areas of the project.

I also write in support of Mr. Sarbanes' efforts to strengthen and expand the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, established in Sec 510 of WRDA 1996. I have signed a separate letter to the committee that outlines my support of Mr. Sarbanes' proposed amendment.

Finally, I urge you to consider the adoption of language submitted by Delegate Holmes Norton that authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers, which has the responsibility to operate, maintain and improve Washington Aqueduct, to undertake an annual program of capital improvement projects that are necessary to sustain the infrastructure as well as continually be in compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, and all other acts that collectively ensure the safety and reliability of the drinking water and the protection of the environment. The language would allow the establishment of interest bearing accounts in the United States Treasury. Wholesale customer funds to cover the cost of the construction contracts when awarded would be deposited in these accounts. This authorization would allow for the completion of critical and judicially mandated renovations to the Washington Aqueduct system that supplies drinking water for much of the national capital region.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. I have enclosed copies of the electronic submissions and disclosure forms. Please feel free to contact me or Tim Aiken or Zach Cafritz of my staff should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James P. Moran

JPM/zc  
Enclosures