

Congressman Mike Quigley

Fiscal Year 2015 programmatic for the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

**\$9,800,000 for the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act Grant Program**

**Explanation:** BEACH Act grants help states and localities pay for water quality testing to ensure coastal waterways are safe for swimming. The elimination of the BEACH grant program could severely impact the health and safety of beachgoers and swimmers and impact the economies of our coastal communities. We urge you to appropriate funding for the BEACH Act grant program at the Fiscal Year 2012 level of \$9.8 million so we can continue to protect our beaches and their surrounding communities.

**\$10,000,000 for the Centennial Challenge**

**Explanation:** The Centennial Challenge investment would allow for the park service to leverage private matching funds through a 1:1 match for specific projects. As the National Park Service prepares for its 100th Anniversary, Congress has an achievable opportunity to begin reversing the damaging pattern of recent cuts and long-term underfunding and to instead invest in the popular and economically important National Park Service. The troubled budget process of recent years has allowed a slow-motion shutdown that has meant fewer park rangers, a growing maintenance backlog, delayed park openings, closed visitor centers, canceled educational programs, and a host of other impacts, many of which continue even after the damaging sequester. An investment this year will help parks recover from years of underfunding and prepare to greet visitors and restore parks for the Centennial. Every dollar invested in the National Park Service generates \$10 in economic activity.

**\$1,450,000,000 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund**

**Explanation:** We are constantly reminded of the inadequate state of repair of our water and wastewater infrastructure and the robust national investment an efficient, safe, and effective system requires. These loans help communities maintain safe and effective water infrastructure and affords states the flexibility to fund their highest-priority projects. Additionally, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund helps provide vital services to municipal wastewater treatment, nonpoint source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management.

**\$85,000,000 for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund**

**Explanation:** The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund provides vital funding to regional Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) through competitive grants. Regional HCPs, which are led by local governments, facilitate urban-suburban development, and job creation through coordinated permitting for endangered species impacts. They are very important in areas where there is a large and growing population of rare animals and plants.

\$65,421,000 for the **Cooperative Water Program**

**Explanation:** The Cooperative Water Program, the largest U.S. Geological Survey, is the Water Mission Area's bottom-up, on-the-ground program. It is designed to bring local, state, and tribal water science needs and decision-making together with the U.S. Geological Survey's nationally consistent methods and quality assurance, including innovative monitoring technology, models, and analysis tools as well as robust data management and delivery systems. The significant tie to local, state, and tribal issues allows the Cooperative Water Program to respond to emerging water issues and raising those issues to regional and national visibility.

\$30,000,000 for the **Diesel Emissions Reductions Program**

**Explanation:** The Diesel Emissions Reductions Program provides a wide range of emission reduction strategies for heavy or light diesel vehicles, ocean-going vessels, locomotives, or non-road equipment. Clean-air strategies are developed by working with manufacturers, fleet operators, air quality professionals, community organizations, and state/local officials to reduce diesel emissions. Because diesel engines can operate for 20 to 30 years, millions of older and dirtier diesel engines are still in use. Emissions from diesel exhaust can lead to serious health and environmental consequences. Diesel Emissions Reductions Program funds help upgrade these engines to operate more cleanly, and improve air quality and protect public health.

\$140,000,000 for the **Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Conservation**

**Explanation:** Asian carp are an invasive species, which can devastate important fisheries across entire watersheds by destroying habitat, consuming the food of native fish, and over-populating the area. This funding will allow the Service to focus on limiting the spread of these invasive fish in major watersheds that are highly likely to have habitat suitable for self-sustaining populations of Asian carp, such as the Great Lakes, Missouri, Ohio, Upper Mississippi River, and other high priority watersheds.

\$15,000,000 for the **Grassroots Source Water Protection Program**

**Explanation:** These funds provide each state with one full time source water specialist to assist communities develop locally-driven plans to protect the ground and surface waters that are the water source for that community. As land development pressures grow and environmental regulations increase, communities need comprehensive plans to protect local sources of safe and clean water. Additionally, by developing and implementing a source water protection plan, communities can help minimize the future need for expensive upgrades to treatment facilities.

\$300,000,000 for the **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

**Explanation:** The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative addresses vital environmental issues in the Great Lakes, such as cleaning up contaminated sediments, mitigating habitat degradation and loss, addressing invasive species, such as the Asian carp, and protecting drinking water.

Support President's FY 2015 Request for the **Hazardous Substance Superfund**

**Explanation:** The Hazardous Substance Superfund program was established to clean up emergency hazardous materials, spills, and dangerous, uncontrolled, and/or abandoned hazardous waste sites. Funding is used to identify and induce parties responsible for hazardous waste problems to undertake cleanup actions and pay for EPA oversight of those actions. In addition, responsible parties have been required to cover the cost of fund-financed removal and remedial actions undertaken at spills and waste sites by federal and state agencies.

\$56,410,000 for the **Historic Preservation Fund**

**Explanation:** Tying all of our Nation's historic preservation programs together are the State Historic Preservation Officers and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers under the Historic Preservation Fund. Funding these core and essential historic preservation programs represents a true investment in America's treasured legacy multiplied many times over through public-private economic partnerships and ventures. Most importantly, it would create much needed jobs and ensure the protection of historic resources nationwide that might otherwise be lost forever.

\$300,000,000 for the **Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program**

**Explanation:** Japanese American Confinement Sites grants are awarded to preserve and interpret U.S. Confinement Sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II. The purpose of the grant program is to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from these sites and that these sites will demonstrate the nation's commitment to equal justice under the law.

\$900,000,000 for the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

**Explanation:** Since its creation 50 years ago, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to ensure the permanent protection, recreational access, and maintenance of critical lands in our national forests, recreation areas, parks, wildlife refuges, Civil War battlefields, and historic sites. Equally important, it has provided matching funds to support countless state park and recreation projects in thousands of communities in every state in the nation.

\$10,000,000 for the **Multinational Species Conservation Fund**

**Explanation:** The Multinational Species Conservation Fund helps to sustain wildlife populations, address threats by controlling poaching, reducing human-wildlife conflict, and protecting essential habitats. By working with local communities, they also improve peoples' livelihoods, contribute to local and regional stability, and can support U.S. security interests in impoverished regions.

Support the President's FY 2015 budget request for the **National Cooperative Geological Mapping Program**

**Explanation:** The National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP) is a co-op between the State Geological Survey, institutions of higher education, and the USGS. Geologic maps, the principal product of NCGMP, are used by businesses and

governments to locate vital ground and surface water, minerals, and fuels for consumption, conservation, and planning. The NCGMP saves the country money, produces wealth, enhances economic competitiveness by locating resources for development and conservation, and helps identify and avoid hazards before lives are lost or excessive costs are incurred. The private and public sector, as well as local, state, tribal, and deferral government agencies rely on these maps.

\$154,466,000 for the **National Endowment for the Arts**

**Explanation:** The National Endowment for the Arts contributes to the development and economic growth of communities nationwide. Arts and culture-related industries provide direct economic benefits to states and communities: they create jobs, attract investments, generate tax revenues, and stimulate local economies through tourism and consumer purchases. Each year, the nonprofit arts industry generates \$135.2 billion in economic activity and provides 4.13 million full-time jobs. At the same time, this industry returns \$9.59 billion to the federal government in income taxes.

\$154,466,000 for the **National Endowment for the Humanities**

**Explanation:** National Endowment for the Humanities is the single most important source of federal funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that provide individuals with an ethical, cultural, and historical perspective. All sectors of our country's education enterprise use National Endowment for the Humanities competitive grants to conserve and nurture America's heritage and educate the next generation of Americans. In addition, National Endowment for the Humanities funding, allocated through state humanities councils, strengthens the cultural infrastructure of local communities in every state and territory across the nation. Building a solid foundation in the humanities becomes even more vital to U.S. interests as the world becomes more interconnected.

\$9,700,000 for the **National Environmental Education Act Programs**

**Explanation:** We respectfully request that the Subcommittee on Interior and Environment continue its support for environmental education projects by funding the National Environmental Education Act at \$9.7 million in the FY 2015 appropriations bill, consistent with funding levels over the past several years.

Support the President's FY 2015 budget request for the **National Landscape Conservation System**

**Explanation:** The National Conservation Lands protect 27 million acres of cultural and natural treasures managed by the Bureau of Land Management. They are the nation's crown jewels under the agency's care that have been designated for protection by Congress and the President. These areas—wild rivers, scenic trails, big game habitat, and unparalleled archaeological and historical resources—protect our national heritage while ensuring outstanding recreational and scientific opportunities.

\$2,822,000 for the **National Park's Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program**

**Explanation:** The program protects nationally-significant rivers that flow through privately-owned or state-owned lands within the United States by preserving them in

a natural, free-flowing condition. The program engages private interests and all levels of government in studying, planning, and managing the rivers for the benefit of future generations.

\$33,701,000 for the **National Streamflow Information Program**

**Explanation:** The National Streamflow Information Program was developed to provide a national perspective, guidance, planning, and leadership to the stream-gaging activities of the U.S. Geological Survey. To provide streamflow information meeting national needs, the information obtained from these stream gages needs to be consistent, obtained using standard techniques and technology, and be subject to the same quality assurance and quality control. The National Streamflow Information Program plan provides for a unified network to meet national, regional, and local needs of streamflow information. The National Streamflow Information Program is designed with five goals, one of which is to provide a "backbone" or core stream gage network that are critical to national streamflow information needs, funded totally with federal funds. The U.S. Geological Survey stream-gaging network is currently funded in partnership with over 850 federal, state, and local agencies.

\$476,400,000 for the **National Wildlife Refuge System**

**Explanation:** The Refuge System has been under increasing fiscal strain. It has an operations and maintenance backlog of over \$1.7 billion. This has resulted in severe shortages for law enforcement and visitor services and a reduction of vital monitoring of wildlife and upkeep of facilities. It is imperative that we make important legacy investments in our refuges now to ensure that these fish, wildlife, and habitats are protected for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.

\$ 34,145,000,000 for the **North American Wetlands Conservation Fund**

**Explanation:** NAWCA is a long-standing program that has been extremely effective in leveraging non-federal funds to protect, restore, and manage wetland habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. NAWCA is a landmark investment which, for over 20 years, has produced a number of economic and environmental benefits while conserving America's fish and wildlife resources. It is a private landowner-friendly, non-regulatory, and incentive-based program. Every federal dollar granted under NAWCA has typically been tripled by partners at the state and local level. Expenditures from the program create, on average, nearly 3,800 new jobs annually in the United States and generate nearly \$840 million in worker earnings each year.

\$2,283,852,000 for the **Operation of the National Park System**

**Explanation:** Our National Parks include not only the most splendid examples of America's unsurpassed natural and scenic heritage, but also the special places that cradle the story of our nation and the shared values that unite us. Investing in our parks means recognizing their economic value, as well as the deep love that Americans hold for them. An adequate investment would allow parks to meet fixed costs—such as rent, fuel, utilities and other uncontrollable cost increases—as well as overdue cyclical maintenance that is critical to preparing park facilities for the system's Centennial in 2016. Operation's funding would also increase opportunities

to connect youth to parks and support expanded volunteer capacity that leverages cost-effective support to help maintain parks and serve visitors, a commendable return on investment. Finally, this funding would support rangers that enhance the safety and visiting experience that is so important to park-dependent local economies.

**\$907,000,000 for the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund**

**Explanation:** Through the SRFs investment programs, states provide loans to local communities or utilities to support upgrades and replacements of water distribution pipelines, treatment plants, sewer lines, and other similar infrastructure. This funding is critical as it helps communities maintain safe and effective water infrastructure and affords states the flexibility to fund their highest-priority projects. This funding provides a critical and urgent investment to address overburdened and aging sanitary sewers and water treatment plants nationwide.

**\$58,695,000 for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program**

**Explanation:** The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program provides states, territories, the District of Columbia, and Indian tribes with the resources they need to implement proactive and effective wildlife conservation actions. The program has been successful in preventing the listing of petitioned species and has also helped recover some of the more than 1,300 species already on the federal endangered species list.

**\$46,925,000 for the State Historic Preservation Officers**

**Explanation:** State Historic Preservation Officers carry out the National Historic Preservation Act which provides citizens the tools they need to revitalize, rehabilitate, and protect the places that give meaning to America. Funding for State Historic Preservation Officers leverages investments through local jobs, non-federal contributions, and long-term economic development.

**\$8,985,000 for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers**

**Explanation:** Tribal Historic Preservation Officers carry-out many of the same functions as State Historic Preservation Officers in tribal areas. There are now 150 THPOs, compared to only 12 in fiscal year 1996 when the program was first funded. Unfortunately, the amount of Historic Preservation Fund funds appropriated is not keeping pace with this expansion. The addition of new Tribal Historic Preservation Officers each year keeps the average level of support per Tribal Historic Preservation Officers suppressed at around \$60,000, which is barely enough to operate a program. We understand the serious need for increased funding; however, given our Nation's fiscal crisis, we request level funding for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

**\$684,060 for U.S. EPA State Indoor Radon Grants**

**Explanation:** The Radon Program provides information to the public about radon. Radon gas is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Illinois Emergency Management Agency provides sub-grants to counties, municipalities, schools, universities, and non-for-profit organizations. Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency

estimate that 1,160 Illinois residents develop radon induced lung cancer and die annually. The national average radon concentration is 1.3 pCi/L; the Illinois average is 4.9 pCi/L. Based on measurements in over 118,000 homes by licensed professionals, 41 percent of those homes had radon concentrations greater than the United States Environmental Protection Agency Action Level of 4.0 pCi/L. Significant risk reduction to the entire Illinois population can be accomplished by testing and if necessary, mitigating every home. The state relies upon the State Indoor Radon Grant funding to provide the sub-grantees the funding for outreach to the public.

**\$500,000 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grant Program**

**Explanation:** The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration program helps states provide the equipment to mass mark salmon and trout in order to track whether or not fish are surviving and reproducing. In the past, these funds have helped track wetland changes along the Lake Michigan border, evaluated lake trout spawning reefs in along Lake Michigan, tracked yellow perch populations and their habitat, and predicted climate-change induced distribution shifts in reptiles.

**\$15,000,000 for the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center**

**Explanation:** The US Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center assists with research on sea lamprey treatments and deterrents. The Science Center has created a simple backpack-style testing method to take out into the field to test for sea lamprey pheromones in the stream. Additionally, the Science Center supports the fisheries research that informs the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Lake Committees' discussions to set quotas and fisheries rules. The Great Lakes Fishery depends on data provided by the Science Center and the US provides this data as part of their international commitments to fisheries management in the Great Lakes.