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Congress of the United States
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November 2, 2017

Mr. Douglas Lamont
Senior Official Performing the Duties of
The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Mr. Lamont,

I am writing to express support for the inclusion of a feasibility study for the Francis E. Walter Dam in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fiscal Year 2019 budget request. This study would evaluate the possibility of modifying the dam and its operations to improve flood control objectives, water quality, and recreational opportunities. USACE currently has the authority to carry out this study under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970.

In the areas of the Lehigh River I represent, downstream of the Francis E. Walter Dam, there is the possibility to enhance recreational opportunities by modifying the dam's structure and operation. State and local stakeholders believe that improvements to the dam's operations would create a more attractive wild trout fishing environment, which would lead to greater economic benefits for the region as well.

On 9 July 2015, the Army Corps of Engineers issued an Initial Appraisal Report for the Francis E. Walter Dam & Reservoir project. This report examined the potential for future economic benefits as a result of changes to the dam's operations or modifications, and found that there was "justification for initiation of a Feasibility Study as the next study phase."¹

In light of USACE's findings in its initial report examining this issue and the potential positive recreational and economic benefits of this project, I respectfully request that you to include a feasibility study for the Francis E. Walter Dam in your FY19 budget.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

¹ http://www.thelehighriver.org/img/20150709_Walter%20IAR_FINAL.pdf

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