Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum Ranking Member Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies 1016 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As supporters of the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program, we write to respectfully request \$3.051 million for the National Park Service's Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program within the Operations of the Park System account in the Interior Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2019.

The program currently 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, which is quite unique in engaging private interests and all levels of government in studying, planning, and managing the rivers for the benefit of future generations, includes the Eightmile River (CT), Farmington River (CT), Great Egg Harbor River (NJ), Lamprey River (NH), Lower Delaware River (NJ/PA), Maurice River (NJ), Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (VT), Musconetcong River (NJ), Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers (MA), Taunton River (MA), Wekiva River (FL), Westfield River (MA), and White Clay Creek (DE/PA). Providing sufficient funding for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program will ensure that the approved conservation plans of these rivers continue to be effectively and efficiently implemented.

The Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program has succeeded and thrived due to its collaborative, locally-driven planning and management approach which we believe is a highly effective and economical alternative to direct federal management and administration. This approach, in conjunction with adequate federal funding, has allowed for the leveraging of substantial additional state, local, and private funding. In addition, this approach has encouraged and resulted in the invaluable contribution of thousands of volunteer hours and donations of professional and other much-needed services.

In order to continue to effectively manage these rivers and sustain these strong local-state-federal partnerships, we respectfully ask that \$3.051 million be included for the National Park Service's Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program in your FY 2019 bill. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Niki Tsongas Mmber of Congress Stephen F. Lynch Member of Congress tember of Congress **Eleanor Holmes Norton** Alcee L. Hastings Member of Congress Member of Congress Keith Ellison Mark DeSaulnier Member of Congress Member of Congress Michael E. Capuano Alan Lowenthal Member of Congress Member of Congress Gerald E. Conselly Josh Gottheimer Member of Congress Member of Congress Peter Welch Joe Courtney Member of Congress Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Seth Moulton Member of Congress

ace F. Napolitano Ann McLane Kuster Member of Congress Member of Congress R McGovern Member of Congress Member of Congress Sheila Jackson Lee Member of Congress Member of Congress - Walson Crlema Leonard Lance Bonnie Watson Coleman Member of Congress Member of Congress Donald M. Payne, J. Marc Veasey Member of Corgress Member of Congress Darren Soto Steve Cohen Member of Congress Member of Congress Frank Pallone, Jr. Member of Congress Member of Congress Bill Pascrell, Jr. Joseph P. Kennedy, III

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Donald Norcross

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

John B. Larson

Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapa Member of Congress

Willam R. Keating

Member of Congress

Jared Polis

Member of Congress