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CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

April 27, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Grant County Conservation District in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Grant County Conservation District, located at 1107 South Juniper Drive, Moses Lake, Washington 98837.

The funding would be used to implement in-lake management leading to water quality improvements and the reduction of harmful algal blooms in Moses Lake. Moses Lake has experienced poor water quality dating back to the 1960s. In recent years, as documented by various studies and the news media, Moses Lake has suffered from harmful algal blooms. These blooms further degrade water quality, produce toxins that are a health risk to humans, wildlife, and plant communities, and have negative impacts on recreation, property values, and the local economy.

This project will improve the water quality in the Rocky Ford Arm of Moses Lake at a significant level. These outcomes will provide significant benefits to the local community and users from across the state and greater Northwest. Implementation of the project would result in immediate and substantial water quality improvements, including reduced harmful algal blooms, decreased risks associated with harmful algal blooms, enhancement of wetlands and other plant communities, improvement in the recreational economy of the Columbia Basin, and positively benefit local property values on and near the lake.

The proposed project includes phosphorus sequestration technology that would be utilized in the inflow area of Rocky Ford Creek to reduce external phosphorus loading by 2000+ pounds per year. Lanthanum-modified bentonite clay and other technologies will be used in deeper areas of the Rocky Ford Arm to prevent the release of phosphorus and mitigate approximately 10,000 pounds of internal phosphorus loading. Finally, additional monitoring will be completed in Moses Lake (sediment and water quality) to monitor the impacts of the management implemented and to provide quantitative data to guide additional restoration in the future.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Newhouse".

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress