DAN NEWHOUSE
4TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON
www.newhouse.house.gov

504 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
OFFICE (202) 225–5816
FAX (202) 225–3251

CHAIRMAN
CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

March 23, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding of $4,000,000 for the Yakima County Gap to Gap Protection Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Yakima County Public Services Department, located at 128 N. 2nd St. Yakima, WA 98901. The funding would be used to provide much longer-term flood hazard reduction by examining the causes of past levee failures and damage to critical infrastructure such as the City Wastewater Treatment Plant, I-82, and SR 24. Specifically, after plan implementation, the Base Flood Elevation at the WWTP will drop by 6.5 feet, which removes all of the plant's facilities from the 100-year floodplain. Velocities also drop from a highly erosive 21 feet per second to less than 8 feet per second. Similar reductions in stage and velocity occur at the transportation facilities. These reductions reduce or eliminate future maintenance/flood fighting needs at these facilities and directly address the causal factors for prior failures or damage.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because many of the reductions in flood hazard benefit vulnerable populations south of SR 24 (which also come out of the floodplain) and interior to the Cities of Yakima and Union Gap. The project also provides additional recreational facilities adjacent to these communities and large areas of publicly accessible trees and riparian zones in the Yakima Greenway by restoring the Yakima Greenway Mainline trail, which connects Yakima and Union Gap.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 203 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress