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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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ENERGY, AND CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

May 11, 2017

Secretary Shawn Garvin
Delaware Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Commissioner Basil Seggos
New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Commissioner Bob Martin
New Jersey Department of Environmental
Protection
401 E. State St.
7th Floor, East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625

Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza
New York City Department of Environmental
Protection
59-17 Junction Blvd
Flushing, NY 11373

Secretary Patrick McDonnell
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building, 16th Floor
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Members,

As Decree Party Members, I want to thank you all for being willing and active participants during Flexible Flow Management Plan (FFMP) negotiations over the last number of years. Your past willingness to engage with all stakeholders is admirable.

Unfortunately, I am disheartened to hear that a finalized FFMP has yet to be established. Despite the recent breakdown in the conversation, I believe that it is not too late to continue collaborative negotiations toward a final agreement. With the deadline fast approaching, it is vitally important that all Decree Party Members return to the table to continue the dialogue. Incredible reforms and relationships have been established over the last decade; we cannot let these efforts go to waste.

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I understand that several proposals to improve basin management and releases have been suggested up to this point, and I urge all Decree Party Members to consider positive reforms, including:

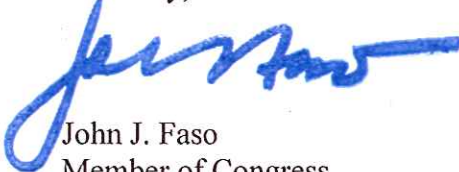
- thermal mitigation banks to provide support to cold-water fisheries during times of thermal stress in the Pepacton, Neversink, and Cannonsville ecosystems;
- flood mitigation improvements that will decrease the risk of disastrous flooding events both above and below the dams;
- continued evaluation of the impacts of fully utilizing the F.E. Walter Dam and reservoir.

Regardless of the final changes to the FFMP, it is imperative that we not sacrifice the progress which has been made over the last number of years. All parties' specific concerns and opinions have value, but we must accept that if we are not willing to negotiate and compromise we jeopardize the safety, well-being, and economic viability of all communities within the Delaware River Basin.

I eagerly anticipate a finalized FFMP before the May 31 deadline. If a new FFMP cannot be negotiated within that time, a one-year extension should be agreed upon. Reverting back to the 1980s reservoir management approach is unacceptable.

I am more than willing to provide support as needed.

Sincerely,



John J. Faso
Member of Congress
19th Congressional District of New York