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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Operation and Maintenance (O&M) project for Fiscal Year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The funding will be used to complete critical, non-routine, backlogged maintenance on the MKARNS system in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because of the overall economic impact of MKARNS on the United States, and in particular, the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Additional funding above the President's budget request for the O&M account will help address the backlog of critical maintenance projects along the 50-year-old MKARNS system. USACE has been falling behind for years in performing this maintenance, and that unfortunately increases the probability that a component failure will close the system. According to the Arkansas Waterways Commission and the University of Arkansas, the MKARNS contributes over \$8.5 billion in sales, nearly \$290 million in taxes, and over 55,000 jobs to the U.S. economy. Loss of navigation on MKARNS would cost over 6,000 jobs and cause a national GDP decline of nearly \$725 million.

This project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 102(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 USC 2212).

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

Sincerely,



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress