



June 28, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

As the Committee prepares to mark up the Fiscal Year 2023 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce urges you to consider several important funding and policy priorities.

**Army Corps of Engineers:** The Chamber encourages the Committee to support full funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works Program authorized in the Water Resources and Development Act of 2020, including all projects in the 46 Chief of Engineers reports, as well as full funding for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, and the Border Water Infrastructure Program. We support funding for the water infrastructure programs authorized but not appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

**PFAS Regulations:** We believe that Congress should provide the oversight to assure a coordinated and timely government response and appropriate the funding necessary to support sound scientific research and the management, mitigation, and ongoing monitoring to accelerate cleanup and treatment of specific per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Accordingly, the Chamber supports the \$126 million in additional funding for scientific and regulatory work for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assist state and local communities to address the contamination and remediation of PFAS. In addition, we oppose the inclusion of any legislative language or amendments that would regulate PFAS as a class or otherwise circumvent existing regulatory authorities, including bans on procurement and incineration.

**Waters of the United States:** The Chamber urges Congress to require the Agencies to suspend work on the proposed rule until the Supreme Court issues its forthcoming decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, as the Court's decision is likely to be highly instructive on the issues at the heart of this rulemaking, including the limits of the Agencies' authority under the CWA.

**AIM Act Implementation and Climate Innovation:** The Chamber urges you to fully fund implementation of the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons, and technology innovation to drive greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

**Solid Waste Recycling Program:** The Chamber urges you to include \$10 million for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) pilot grant program to build innovation in the recycling industry.

**Streamline Permitting Process:** The Chamber encourages the committee to oppose efforts that revert to outdated and ineffective National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) policies from the 1970s, but to support EPA and the Council on Environmental Quality efforts to streamline agency permitting processes and accelerate decision-making to support investments designed to improve America's transportation, water, broadband, energy, and other critical infrastructure. The energy infrastructure investments should focus not only on carbon capture utilization and sequestration (CCUS) and renewable energy projects as identified in the budget request but be applied to major energy infrastructure projects of all kinds.

**USE-IT Act Implementation:** The Chamber also encourages funding for EPA to initiate implementation of the Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies Act (USE-IT). Passed by Congress in December 2020, the Act authorizes \$85 million for carbon utilization and direct air capture research activities.

**Diesel Emissions Reduction Act:** The Chamber urges full funding for EPA's recently authorized Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program at the requested level of \$150 million. Expanded funding for this successful and well-managed program would allow EPA to accelerate the pace at which older diesel engines are retired or retrofitted, particularly in areas with significant air quality challenges.

The Chamber appreciates your consideration of these recommendations as you prepare to mark up the Fiscal Year 2023 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley  
Executive Vice President,  
Chief Policy Officer,  
and Head of Strategic Advocacy  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members of the House Committee on Appropriations