

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 17, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

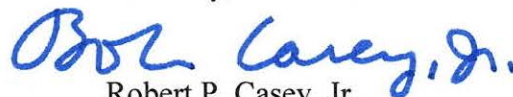
As you continue to work on the Fiscal Year 2020 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I would like to respectfully request your support for the increased funding for local grants in the Chesapeake Bay program, as outlined in the committee report language of H.R. 3052. This funding will aid in offsetting costs of stormwater infrastructure improvements, an increasingly costly burden for communities across Pennsylvania and the nation as we see more frequent flooding and water quality issues.

These grants can be used to clean waterways and help localities meet federal mandates as they restore the Chesapeake Bay. Aging and defunct stormwater systems have led to burdensome stormwater fees for many Pennsylvanians, who would benefit greatly from some economic relief as they rebuild their communities after storms.

I urge the committee to provide the \$85,000,000 suggested by the House Appropriations Committee for the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Program, including the \$24,000,000 outlined for nutrient and sediment removal grants, small watershed grants to control polluted runoff and for state-based implementation in the most effective basins.

While I recognize the need to make difficult choices in the current fiscal environment, I strongly believe that funding these grants now will reduce future costs. For these reasons, I ask that in your FY 2020 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, you provide funding for this important endeavor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator