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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
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OVERSIGHT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Cherry Creek Channel and Overbank Stabilization in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers located at 1616 Capitol Avenue, Ste. 9000, Omaha, NE, 68102. The funding would be used for restoration of Cherry Creek in Cherry Creek State Park between the Cherry Creek Reservoir and Lakeview Drive. This stream reach (Reach 1) is experiencing severe and progressive erosion that adversely impacts water quality in Cherry Creek Reservoir, impacts Cherry Creek State Park trails and infrastructure, places Aurora Water's water pipeline at risk, and may impact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' operation of the reservoir for flood control. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it protects and restores a public resource that experiences over 1.5 million park visitors per year. It is an urban oasis that is easily accessible within the metro-Denver area. Families of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds access the park to enjoy the trail system, birds and other wildlife, fishing, camping, water recreation, picnicking and other activities. On an annual basis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife harvests over 100 million walleye eggs from the reservoir to support other fisheries throughout Colorado. The cost of the project exceeds the near-term available funds of the Basin Authority and its partners, with more erosion occurring and costs increasing the longer the project is delayed. Additionally, Cherry Creek Reservoir is considered "impaired" for elevated chlorophyll-a and this project helps to reduce over 1,600 pounds of annual phosphorus loading that "feed" algal blooms, which can be harmful and result in beach closures to the public and a diminished experience.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946.

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

Sincerely,



Jason Crow
Member of Congress