

Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission Package

Proposal Name: Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure program

Submission Date: 08/28/2019

Proposal ID Number: 76e36f6d-4ef4-4ec8-937c-60cb3c26f7b5

Purpose of Proposal: The purpose of this proposed modification is to increase the authorized spending limit for the Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program. Section 571 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 authorizes the US Army Corps of Engineers to provide assistance to small and rural communities in Central WV in the form of design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects, including projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, water supply and related facilities, and surface water resource protection and development. The Section 571 program was enacted to address the problems with the contaminated sources of drinking water, inadequate wastewater treatment facilities, inadequate water supply capabilities and the quality of surface and ground water. Unfortunately, the Section 571 has nearly reached the program's \$20 million authorized spending limit. As a result, non-Federal partners such as the public service districts and towns do not have the ability of leveraging this program at a time when the demand and environmental conditions are placing an even greater pressure on the area's aging infrastructure systems.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure program

by Agency: Region VII Planning and Development Council

Locations: WV

POC Name:

POC Phone:

POC Email:

Date Submitted: 08/28/2019

Confirmation Number: 76e36f6d-4ef4-4ec8-937c-60cb3c26f7b5

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
Section 571 Letters of Support.pdf	08/27/2019
Section 571 Map.pdf	08/27/2019
08-27-19-7001 EI Support Letter.pdf	08/28/2019

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Multiple Counties, Towns and Public Service Districts(Primary)	Many of the communities, towns, counties and public service districts in the Section 571 service area fully support a modification to increase the allocation of the Section 571 Central West Virginia Environmental Infrastructure Program. Over many years, local governments and utilities have utilized this program to address the quality of surface and ground water in their respective communities. Many wastewater and water improvement and extension projects were completed with these funds. Without the availability of the Section 571 program, these projects would not have come to fruition. Of the initial \$20 million authorization limit of the Section 571 program, over \$15.8 million has been allocated to projects in this area of WV. Over 2,000 homes and businesses have been provided clean water and sanitary sewer service. There is still a huge need to improve and extend water and wastewater systems in Central WV. Over \$100 million of water and sewer projects in Central WV are in need of funding for implementation.

3. State if this proposal is for new feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing USACE project authority, or a modification to an existing USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program authority. If it is a proposal for a modification to an existing study, project or program authority, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] Modification to a USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program Authority

Environmental Infrastructure Program Authority Name:

Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program

Description of assistance provided to date:

Section 571 program has provided clean water and sanitary sewer to over 2000 homes and businesses.

Total Federal cost of assistance provided to date:

\$15,839,728

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The purpose of this proposed modification is to increase the authorized spending limit for the Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program. Section 571 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 authorizes the US Army Corps of Engineers to provide assistance to small and rural communities in Central WV in the form of design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects, including projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, water supply and related facilities, and surface water resource protection and development. The Section 571 program was enacted to address the problems with the contaminated sources of drinking water, inadequate wastewater treatment facilities, inadequate water supply capabilities and the quality of surface and ground water. Unfortunately, the Section 571 has nearly reached the program's \$20 million authorized spending limit. As a result, non-Federal partners such as the public service districts and towns do not have the ability of leveraging this program at a time when the demand and environmental conditions are placing an even greater pressure on the area's aging infrastructure systems.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$20,000,000	\$6,700,000	\$26,700,000

Explanation (if necessary)

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The environmental and socioeconomic problems that the Section 571 program was authorized to address continue to create issues for Central WV. Some of the issues include public health and safety hazards (contaminated drinking water and failing sewer systems), limited economic development activities and worsening environmental resources. Extreme weather events and increased demand for water and sewer service are putting more pressure on existing infrastructure systems, which creates the inability for the utilities to serve areas that have the potential for economic development. An increase in the Section 571 program would enable our communities to leverage other funding opportunities to combat the aforementioned issues.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

8. Many of the communities, towns, counties and public service districts in the Section 571 service area fully support a modification to increase the allocation of the Section 571 Central West Virginia Environmental Infrastructure Program. Over many years, local governments and utilities have utilized this program to address the quality of surface and ground water in their respective communities. Many wastewater and water improvement and extension projects were completed with these funds. Without the availability of the Section 571 program, these projects would not have come to fruition. This provides another grant source for our communities to access. Central WV has seen a decline in the availability of grant funds, which creates an issue when developing projects. With less grant funds, the project sponsors are required to utilize loan funds. By utilizing loan funds, user rates start to increase to allow the project sponsor to pay back the debt service on the loan funds. This creates a situation for small, rural communities whose residents can't continue to pay increasing user rates for water and/or sewer. It creates a situation where the project becomes unaffordable for the user.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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Section 571 Letters of Support.pdf

City of Buckhannon
70 East Main Street
Buckhannon, WV 26201



Phone: 304.472.1651
TDD# 304.472.9550
Fax# 304.472.0934

August 23, 2019

Colonel Jason Evers, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
502 Eight Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

**RE: Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program
Letter of Support for Section 7001 Process**

Dear Commander Evers:

The City of Buckhannon fully supports the additional authorization request for the Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program. This program is crucial in assisting with addressing inadequate wastewater treatment and water supply capabilities, the contaminated sources of drinking water and the quality of surface and ground water, especially in small and rural communities.

The increase in the authorization amount will definitely provide another funding opportunity for small towns and utilities to utilize to improve their infrastructure systems. Grant funds are becoming scarce and it is vital for Central WV to have more resources to continue to develop their communities and provide for a better quality of life for its residents.

Thank you for your consideration and appreciate the concern to address the needs in Central WV.

Very truly yours,


David W. McCauley, Mayor

cc: Members of City Council
Amby Jenkins, City Director of Finance & Administration
Jerry Arnold, City Director of Public Works
Thomas O'Neill, City Attorney
Jay Hollen, City Engineer

Van Broughton
Mayor
304.636.1414



Bob Pingley
Operations Manager
304.635.7021
bpingley@cityofelkinswv.com

401 Davis Avenue • Elkins, West Virginia 26241

August 26, 2019

Colonel Jason Evers, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
502 Eight Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

**RE: Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program
Letter of Support for Section 7001 Process**

Dear Commander Evers:

The City of Elkins fully supports the additional authorization request for the Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program. This program is crucial in assisting with addressing inadequate wastewater treatment and water supply capabilities, the contaminated sources of drinking water and the quality of surface and ground water, especially in small and rural communities.

The increase in the authorization amount will definitely provide another funding opportunity for small towns and utilities to utilize and improve their infrastructure systems. Grant funds are becoming scarce and it is vital for Central WV to have more resources to continue to develop their communities and provide for a better quality of life for its residents.

Thank you for your consideration to support our needs in Central WV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Pingley".

Bob Pingley
Operations Manager
City of Elkins

COUNTY COMMISSION OF LEWIS COUNTY

110 Center Avenue
Weston WV 26452
Phone:(304)269-8200
FAX: (304)269-2416
Email:lewiscountycommission@lewiscountywv.org
Website: lewiscountywv.org



COMMISSIONERS:
Agnes Queen, President
Patrick Boyle, Commissioner
Rod Wyman, Commissioner

August 26, 2019

Colonel Jason Evers, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
502 Eight Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

**RE: Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program
Letter of Support for Section 7001 Process**

Dear Commander Evers:

The Lewis County Commission fully supports the additional authorization request for the Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program. This program is crucial in assisting with addressing inadequate wastewater treatment and water supply capabilities, the contaminated sources of drinking water and the quality of surface and ground water, especially in small and rural communities.

The increase in the authorization amount will definitely provide another funding opportunity for small towns and utilities to utilize to improve their infrastructure systems. Grant funds are becoming scarce and it is vital for Central WV to have more resources to continue to develop their communities and provide for a better quality of life for its residents.

Thank you for your consideration and appreciate the concern to address the needs in Central WV.

Sincerely


Agnes G. Queen
President

August 23, 2019

Colonel Jason Evers, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
502 Eight Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

**RE: Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program
Letter of Support for Section 7001 Process**

Dear Commander Evers:

The Flatwoods-Canoe Run Public Service District fully supports the additional authorization request for the Section 571 Central West Virginia Environmental Infrastructure Program. This program is crucial in assisting the issue of inadequate wastewater treatment and water supply capabilities, the contaminated sources of drinking water and the quality of surface and ground water, in small and rural communities.

The increase in the authorization amount will definitely provide another funding opportunity for small towns and utilities to utilize to improve their infrastructure systems. Grant funds are becoming scarce and it is vital for Central West Virginia to have more resources to continue to develop their communities and provide for a better quality of life for its residents.

Thank you for your consideration; we appreciate the opportunity to speak in reference to addressing the infrastructure needs of Central West Virginia.

Sincerely,

Rodney L. Pritt

Rodney L. Pritt
General Manager



August 23, 2019

Colonel Jason Evers, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
502 Eight Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

**RE: Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program
Letter of Support for Section 7001 Process**

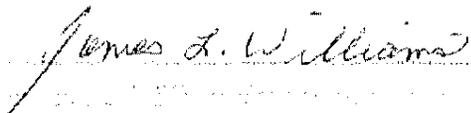
Dear Commander Evers:

The SUGAR CREEK PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT fully supports the additional authorization request for the Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program. This program is crucial in assisting with addressing inadequate wastewater treatment and water supply capabilities, the contaminated sources of drinking water and the quality of surface and ground water, especially in small and rural communities.

The increase in the authorization amount will definitely provide another funding opportunity for small towns and utilities to utilize to improve their infrastructure systems. Grant funds are becoming scarce and it is vital for Central WV to have more resources to continue to develop their communities and provide for a better quality of life for its residents.

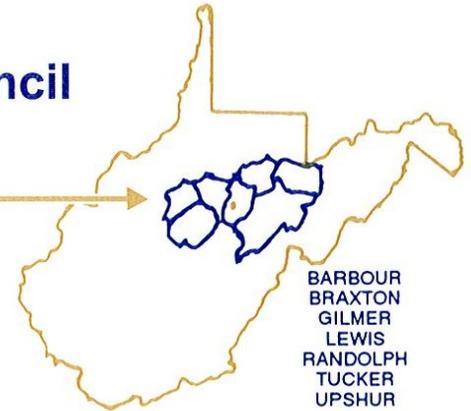
Thank you for your consideration and appreciate the concern to address the needs in Central WV.

Sincerely


James L. Williams

Region VII Planning and Development Council

99 EDMISTON WAY • SUITE 225 • BUCKHANNON, WV 26201
PHONE: (304) 472-6564 • FAX (304) 472-6590



August 23, 2019

Colonel Jason Evers, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
502 Eight Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

**RE: Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program
Letter of Support for Section 7001 Process**

Dear Commander Evers:

Please accept this letter as official support from the Region VII Planning and Development Council for a modification to the authorization of the Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program. It is our understanding that the Section 571 program initially received \$20 million and has appropriated \$15.8 million to date for projects. An increase in the authorization is crucial for the continued development of Central WV.

The Region VII Planning and Development Council is made up of 7 counties and the 24 municipalities therein. Our mission is to provide technical assistance, project development and project management services to our member governments. This includes developing and implementing water and sewer improvement/extension projects for our communities. Without the availability of public funds, these projects would not be completed.

Over the last several years, Central WV has seen a decrease in grant funding available for infrastructure projects. This requires local public service districts to borrow funds to complete these projects, which results in higher user rates for its customers. Projects are becoming more expensive and problematic for rural areas to pay for service.

The need for funding for water and wastewater projects has never been higher. Over \$100 million of projects located in Central WV are developed awaiting funding. Additional funding for the Section 571 program would be crucial for the implementation of these projects. With that being said, the Region VII Planning and Development Council fully supports another \$20 million of funding be allocated to the Section 571 Central WV Environmental Infrastructure Program.

Sincerely,

Shane Whitehair
Executive Director

JOE MANCHIN III
WEST VIRGINIA

SUITE 306
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3954

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

August 27, 2019

Colonel Jason A. Evers
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Huntington
502 8th Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25790

Dear Colonel Evers,

I write today to express my full support for Sections 340 and 571 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992. Funding for the Environmental Infrastructure Program and these Authorities are crucial to West Virginia and vital for community infrastructure improvements in the state.

Funding awarded from Sections 340 and 571 funds to date have totaled more than \$48 million, which has gone to spur investment in communities with local companies completing the work. These funds have supported 56 worthwhile projects, providing clean water and sanitary sewer to over 5,600 homes and businesses in fiscal year 2019 alone; however, there is still a great need in the state for additional Environmental Infrastructure Projects. The current funding caps for Sections 340 and 571, \$40 million and \$20 million respectively, are prohibitive in addressing the tremendous water and wastewater infrastructure needs that are imperative to the health and well-being of the people of West Virginia and the environment of the region.

Many of the counties that fall within the purview of Sections 340 and 571 continue to see an increase in poverty, unemployment, and need while they unfortunately face a decrease in available grant funding for basic infrastructure needs. This has forced local utilities to in turn borrow more funds that are necessary to expand and improve service which in turn results in higher user rates for struggling customers.

An increase in funding for the Authorities created by Sections 340 and 571 is desperately needed to assist in meeting basic infrastructure needs for the communities that need it the most. I plan to urge my Congressional colleagues to provide their support to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Environmental Infrastructure Program and allow for additional funding and the cap adjustments necessary to fully benefit the residents and communities of West Virginia. I look forward to working with you in the future to ensure these crucial programs continue for years to come. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

With warmest regards,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JM/rt

ALEX X. MOONEY
2ND DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INVESTOR PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4802

CHARLESTON OFFICE:
405 CAPITOL STREET
SUITE 306
CHARLESTON, WV 25301
MARTINSBURG OFFICE:
300 FOXCROFT AVENUE
SUITE 101
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401
(304) 264-6810
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2440 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2711
<http://mooney.house.gov>

August 27, 2019

Colonel Jason Evers
US Army Corps of Engineers
502 8th Street
Huntington, WV 25701

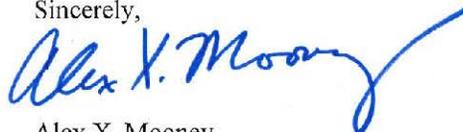
Dear Colonel Evers,

Please accept this letter in support of Sections 340 and 571 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992. Funding for the Environmental Infrastructure Program is crucial to West Virginia and have benefited communities in my Congressional District.

Funding awarded from Sections 340 and 571 to date have totaled more than \$48 million. While these investments have been granted to 56 worthwhile projects that have provided clean water and sanitary sewer to thousands of homes and businesses, there is still a great need in West Virginia for additional Environmental Infrastructure projects. Currently, Sections 340 and 571 have authority caps of \$40 million and \$20 million, respectively, but the need exceeds current funding levels. These two programs are essential to our local infrastructure projects.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Charleston District Office.

Sincerely,



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



WEST VIRGINIA

Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council

August 27, 2019

Colonel Jason A. Evers, PE, PMP
Commander, Huntington District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

Colonel Evers:

We write to express our full support for Sections 340 and 571 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992. Funding for the Environmental Infrastructure Program and this Authorities is crucial to West Virginia and our struggling communities.

Funding awarded from Sections 340 and 571 funds to date has totaled more than \$48 million, and while these monies have been apportioned to 56 worthwhile projects, providing clean water and sanitary sewer to thousands of homes and business, there is still a great need in West Virginia for additional Environmental Infrastructure projects. The current Sections 340 and 571 funding authority caps of \$40 million and \$20 million, respectively, are prohibitive to addressing the remaining paucity of water and wastewater infrastructure that is imperative to the health of both the citizens and the environment of the region.

The West Virginia Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council was created by the West Virginia Legislature in 1994 to act as a funding clearinghouse for water and wastewater projects. Members of the Council include representatives from various state agencies such as the WV Water Development Authority, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau for Public Health, Public Service Commission, WV Housing Development Fund and WV Economic Development Authority. The Council and its members are often responsible for providing part, or all, of the non-federal match required for funding awarded through the Environmental Infrastructure Program.

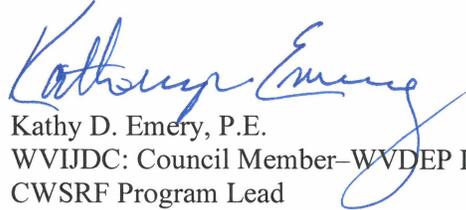
Many of the counties included in Sections 340 and 571 continue to see an increase in poverty and unemployment, while facing a decrease in available grant funding for vital infrastructure projects. This dwindling in grants has forced utilities to borrow more of the necessary funds, which results in higher, punitive user rates for their customers.

An increase in funding for the Authorities created by Sections 340 and 571 is desperately needed for our communities in West Virginia, and I urge Congress to give their support to the U.S. Army Corps' Environmental Infrastructure Program. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



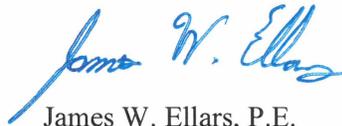
Maria Prezioso
WVIJDC: Council Member–WVWDA Designate
WDA Executive Director



Kathy D. Emery, P.E.
WVIJDC: Council Member–WVDEP Designate
CWSRF Program Lead



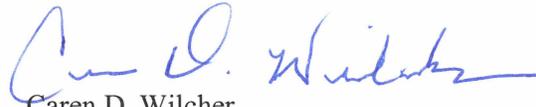
Stephanie D. Hickerson, P.E.
WVIJDC: Council Member–WVBPH Designate
DWTRF Program Lead



James W. Ellars, P.E.
WV IJDC: Council Member–WVPSC Designate
PSC Manager



Erica L. Boggess, CPA
WVIJDC: Council Member–WV HDF Designate
HDF Executive Director



Caren D. Wilcher
WVIJDC: Council Member–WV EDA Designate
EDA Associate Director

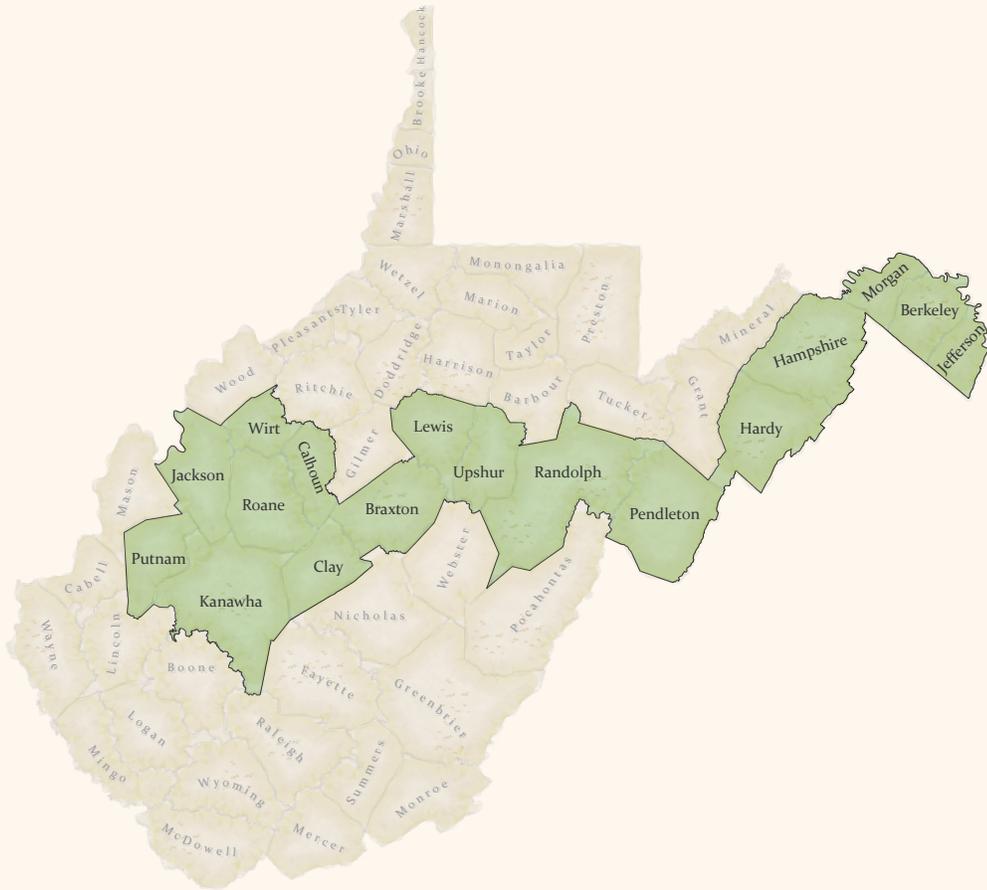


Wayne D. Morgan, P.E., Executive Director
WV Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council

Map Document

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Section 571 Map.pdf



**Section 571: Central West Virginia Environmental
Infrastructure Program**
Congressional District 2
West Virginia



REGION VII PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

PO Box 849
99 EDMISTON WAY, STE 225
BUCKHANNON, WV 26201
(304) 472-6564



Additional Proposal Information

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08_27_19_7001 EI Support Letter.pdf

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 27, 2019

Col. Jason A. Evers, PE, PMP
Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

Dear Colonel Evers:

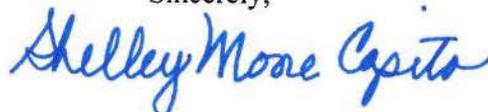
I write in regards to the environmental infrastructure programs delineated in Section 340 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 and Section 571 of WRDA 1999. These programs are critical to ensuring West Virginians have access to clean drinking water and dependable wastewater services.

Whether it is broadband or water lines, modern, dependable infrastructure is essential to the health and development of West Virginia communities. As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I have worked with my colleagues in the Senate to strengthen those programs that fund infrastructure projects in West Virginia and across the country. In particular, my role as chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on EPW provides me the opportunity to ensure that crucial highway and water resource infrastructure projects are afforded the resources necessary to move forward.

Environmental infrastructure assistance through the Army Corps of Engineers, despite not having a particularly large authorization relative to other funding programs, has nonetheless been an important piece of the funding mix for numerous water and wastewater infrastructure projects in West Virginia. Without the funding received through these programs, many projects would have had to depend on loan funding, which can increase water and sewer bills for households that may already be struggling financially.

The scale of the problem of aging water and wastewater infrastructure in West Virginia and across America requires federal, state, and local officials to work together to preserve important programs and develop innovative solutions that will help address the issue. I look forward to continue working with you in my capacity as subcommittee chairman, and as a leader on the Appropriations Committee, to support the aforementioned environmental infrastructure programs and advance water resource projects that benefit West Virginians.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator