

Ala Wai Watershed Association ♦ Alabama Rivers Alliance ♦ American Rivers ♦ Arkansas Wildlife Federation ♦ Association of Northwest Steelheaders ♦ Audubon ♦ Biscayne Bay Waterkeeper ♦ Center for a Sustainable Coast ♦ Clean Ocean Action ♦ Clean Up the River Environment ♦ Clean Water Action ♦ Clean Water Network ♦ Committee on the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River ♦ Cry of the Water ♦ Delaware Audubon Society ♦ Delaware Chapter Sierra Club ♦ Delaware Riverkeeper Network ♦ Detroit Peoples' Water Board ♦ Endangered Habitats League ♦ Float Fishermen of Virginia ♦ Friends of Blackwater ♦ Friends of the Earth ♦ Friends of the Kaw ♦ Friends of the Rivers of Virginia ♦ Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc. ♦ Idaho Rivers United ♦ Izaak Walton League of America ♦ Kentucky Resources Council ♦ Louisiana Environmental Action Network ♦ Capt. Robert V. Martin, US Navy Ret. ♦ Missouri Coalition for the Environment ♦ National Committee for the New River ♦ National Wildlife Federation ♦ NJ Audubon ♦ NJ Sierra Club ♦ NY/NJ Baykeeper ♦ NoPort Southport NC, Inc. ♦ Ogeechee Riverkeeper ♦ Ohio Environmental Council ♦ Ohio River Foundation ♦ Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition ♦ Palm Beach County Reef Rescue ♦ Potomac River Association ♦ Prairie Rivers Network ♦ Rivers Unlimited ♦ Sand Mountain Concerned Citizens ♦ Sierra Club ♦ Southern Illinois University Resources and Policy Program ♦ South Dakota Wildlife Federation ♦ South Jersey Land & Water Trust ♦ St. Johns Riverkeeper ♦ Surfrider Foundation Ventura County Chapter - Matilija Coalition ♦ Tennessee Clean Water Network ♦ The River Project ♦ Water-Culture Institute ♦ Water Protection Network ♦ WV Highlands Conservancy ♦ Yadkin Riverkeeper ♦ Yell County Wildlife Federation

January 26, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The undersigned organizations call on your administration to ensure that the environmentally destructive and economically wasteful Delaware River Deepening Project does not receive federal funding. This project, which would use scarce tax dollars to deepen 102 miles of the Delaware River's navigation channel, will destroy ecologically and environmentally important resources while failing to provide a sound economic return for the taxpayers' investment.

The project is being challenged in the Courts by the State of New Jersey and five local, regional and national environmental organizations for violating state and federal laws, and for ignoring the rights of the States to protect their waters and sovereign lands. The project does not come close to meeting your administration's minimum criteria of returning \$2.50 for each dollar invested to ensure that tax dollars are spent only on projects that will generate clear economic value to the country.

At best, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicts that the project will produce just \$1.64 of benefit for every \$1 spent. A recently released independent economic analysis, however, provides a far bleaker economic assessment. That study, prepared by former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Dr. Robert Stearns, demonstrates that the project will actually produce a negative return on investment – it will cost taxpayers more money than the economic benefits that can possibly be produced. The Government

Accountability Office has similarly issued three separate studies (two full studies and testimony to congress) challenging the economic benefits claimed by the Corps of Engineers, most recently in 2010.

Funding this economically wasteful and environmentally destructive project, particularly in the midst of the ongoing legal challenges, would set a dangerous precedent and undermine the important funding policies established by your administration.

Again, we respectfully urge your administration not to fund the Delaware River Deepening Project.

Sincerely,

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

George Sorvalis, Coordinator, Water Protection Network

Karen Ah Mai, Executive Director, Ala Wai Watershed Association

Cindy Lowry, Executive Director, Alabama Rivers Alliance

Katherine Baer, Acting Director, Senior Vice President for Conservation, American Rivers

Jim Wood, Executive Board Member, Arkansas Wildlife Federation

Ellen McNulty, Vice President, Arkansas Wildlife Federation

Norman E. Ritchie, Government Affairs Director, Association of Northwest Steelheaders

Brian Moore, Legislative Director, Audubon

Alexis Segal, Executive Director and Waterkeeper, Biscayne Bay Waterkeeper

David Kyler, Executive Director, Center for a Sustainable Coast

Cindy Zipf, Executive Director, Clean Ocean Action

Patrick Moore, Executive Director, Clean Up the River Environment

Andrew Fellows, Chesapeake Regional Director, Clean Water Action

Arthur Feinstein, Board Member, Clean Water Network

Clark Bullard, Director, Committee on the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River

Dan Clark, President, Cry of the Water

Mark Martell, President, Delaware Audubon Society

Debbie Heaton, Conservation Chair/Political Chair, Delaware Chapter Sierra Club

Derek Grigsby, Board Member, Detroit Peoples' Water Board

Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League

Brian Van Sande, President, Float Fishermen of Virginia

Judith Rodd, Director, Friends of Blackwater

Erich Pica, Executive Director, Friends of the Earth

Laura Calwell, Kansas Riverkeeper, Friends of the Kaw

William Tanger, Chair, Friends of the Rivers of Virginia

Hugh Carola, Program Director, Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc.

Liz Paul, Boise River Campaign Coordinator, Idaho Rivers United

Olivia Dorothy, Upper Mississippi River Coordinator, Izaak Walton League of America

Tom FitzGerald, Director, Kentucky Resources Council
Marylee Orr, Executive Director, Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Capt. Robert V. Martin, US Navy Ret.
Brad Walker, Floodplain Director, Missouri Coalition for the Environment
George Santucci, Executive Director, National Committee for the New River
Adam Kolton, Executive Director, National Advocacy Center, National Wildlife Federation
Eric Stiles, COO, NJ Audubon
Jeff Tittel, Director, NJ Sierra Club
Deborah A. Mans, Baykeeper & Executive Director, NY/NJ Baykeeper
Albert Willis, Treasurer, NoPort Southport NC, Inc.
Dianna Wedincamp, Executive Director/Riverkeeper, Ogeechee Riverkeeper
Kristy Meyer, Director of Agricultural & Clean Water Programs, Ohio Environmental Council
Rich Cogen, Executive Director, Ohio River Foundation
Vivian Stockman, Project Coordinator, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Ed Tichenor, Director, Palm Beach County Reef Rescue
Dudley Lindsley, Secretary, Potomac River Association
Kim Knowles, Staff Attorney, Prairie Rivers Network
Aaron Rourke, President, Board of Trustees, Rivers Unlimited
Wayne Cummins, Director, Sand Mountain Concerned Citizens
Tim Guilfoile, Deputy Director, Water Sentinels, Sierra Club
Nicholas Pinter, Professor, Dept. of Geology and Environmental Resources & Policy Program, Southern Illinois University
Chris Hesla, Executive Director, South Dakota Wildlife Federation
Christine Nolan, Executive Director, South Jersey Land & Water Trust
Neil A. Armingeon, St. Johns Riverkeeper, St. Johns Riverkeeper
Paul Jenkin, Ventura Campaign Coordinator, Surfrider Foundation Ventura County Chapter - Matilija Coalition
Gary Bullwinkel, Board Member, Tennessee Clean Water Network
Melanie Winter, Director, The River Project
David Groenfeldt, Director, Water-Culture Institute
Cindy Rank, Mining and Extractive Energy Committee, WV Highlands Conservancy
Dean Naujoks, Executive Director/Riverkeeper, Yadkin Riverkeeper
Wayne Shewmake, Board Member, Yell County Wildlife Federation
Patricia Todd