

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

We greatly appreciate your past support for the National Environmental Education Act (NEEA), including providing \$9.5 million in Fiscal Year 2024. We ask that you continue funding this successful program at the authorized level of \$14 million in Fiscal Year 2025.

As you make your funding decisions, we ask that you consider the following:

- NEEA programs are essential to educating millions of Americans, including students, with science-based environmental information. Quality environmental education programs help develop an environmentally literate citizenry that can compete in our global economy; has the skills, knowledge, and inclinations to make well-informed choices; and exercises the rights and responsibilities of members of a community.
- NEEA funding allows the EPA to engage in education efforts with local communities and the private sector to enhance public understanding of how to address complex environmental challenges. This is particularly true for communities of color that are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change.
- Environmental education spurs action to create healthy, livable communities that are more resilient and attract jobs for all Americans, including underserved and underrepresented communities.
- Since 1990, NEEA has been a highly effective, non-regulatory tool for improving student performance in science and math and protecting public health.
- Congress has consistently funded this program, which has been strongly supported by local communities, public health officials, educators, and industry.
- NEEA helps build 21st century skills and promote job training, innovation, and leadership skills.
- The Act utilizes public-private partnerships to highly leverage scarce federal resources.

Programs funded through this Act have far-reaching and well-documented positive impacts. They enable citizens from communities across the nation to make informed, scientifically sound decisions regarding energy consumption, water quality, and conservation at home, school, and in the workplace. These programs also provide practical applications for math, science, technology, and engineering education. Research indicates that this type of education increases critical

thinking and the problem-solving skills necessary to foster innovation and keep America competitive in a fiercely global economy.

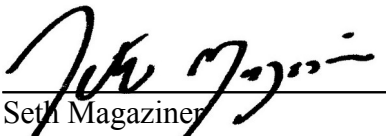
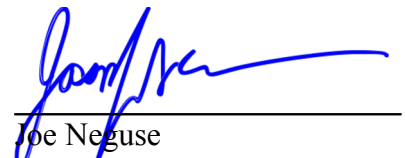

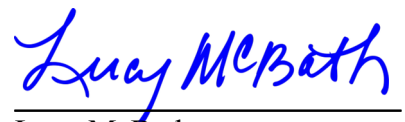
With support from the NEEA, the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) has partnered with more than 20 companies to create nationwide conservation events that generate millions of dollars in volunteer work and develop public and employee engagement campaigns that inform and motivate sustainable actions. NEEF partners with sports leagues such as the NBA and NHL, museums, zoos and aquaria to prompt fans and diverse audiences to take environmental actions at home.

The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) helps ensure that by the time students graduate high school they are equipped with the knowledge to address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges, including those posed by climate change. Project Learning Tree (PLT), a program of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, engages students in learning about trees, forests, and sustainable forest management.

NEEA Grants have been awarded in all 50 states, the territories, and the District of Columbia, totaling more than 4,000 grants that support high-quality, high-impact educational programs that address local priorities and needs. They are effective because they allow students to apply science in a real-world context and perform better on standardized tests in reading, math, writing, social studies, and science. This helps America close the education gap with other countries.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to fund NEEA programs according to the formula in P.L. 101-619 at \$14 million for Fiscal Year 2025.

Sincerely,

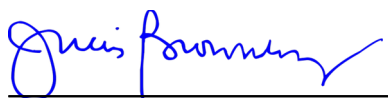
  
Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress  
Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress  
Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



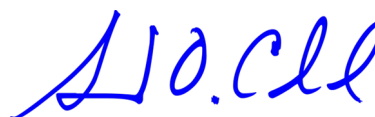
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



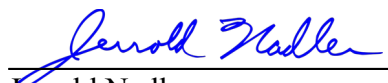
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



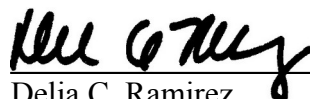
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

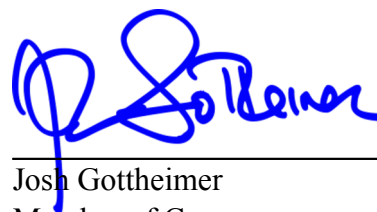


Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



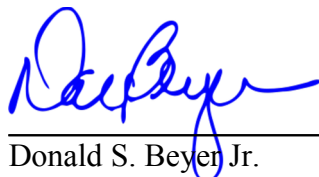
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



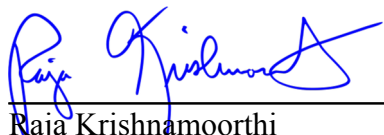
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress  
Scion of the Enslaved  
Africans -  
Sacrificed to Make America  
Great



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Gregorio Kilili Camacho  
Sablan  
Member of Congress



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Mary Sattler Peltola  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



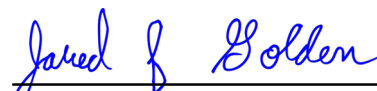
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



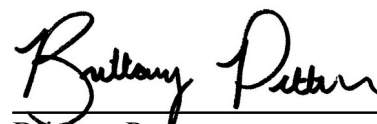
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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



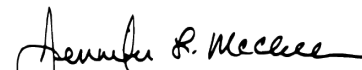
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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



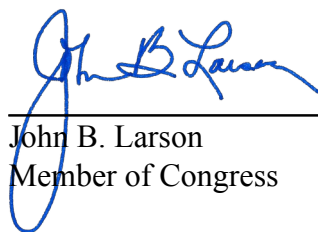
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



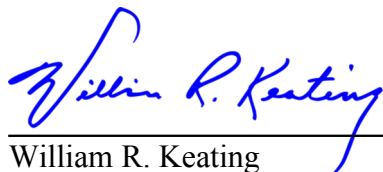
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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



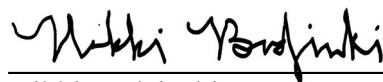
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



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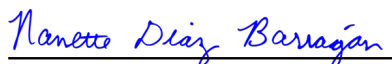
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress




Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



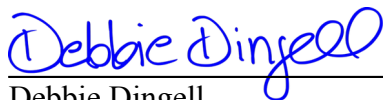
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



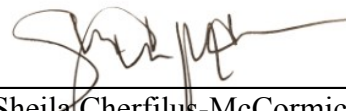
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jim Tokuda", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Diana DeGette", written over a horizontal line.

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress