

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

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

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

Dear Chair Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

As you craft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to request robust funding for the Southeast New England Program, which supports innovative solutions to ecological and economic issues in southeastern New England estuaries. We appreciate your strong support for the program in FY 2024, and ask for \$8 million in FY 2025 to fulfill the program's mission of preserving the ecological health of southeastern New England's estuaries, watersheds, and coastal waters.

Estuaries are critical to healthy ecosystems but are increasingly affected by the impacts of human activity along the coast. Estuaries provide benefits of great economic and ecological significance, including vital nesting and feeding habitats for aquatic plants and animals. Protecting and restoring our coasts and estuaries is critical for both our economy and our environment.

Those who live and work near and on our estuaries have the greatest stake in sound coastal management, as well as the strongest understanding of the unique threats posed by human activity and industry. It is through their expertise that the Southeast New England Program engages stakeholders to craft effective, long-lasting solutions to these challenges.


Through comprehensive and collaborative efforts across southern New England, this funding will support regional scientific research and individual projects. Additionally, this funding provides grants, technical assistance and other support to municipalities and other organizations implementing local solutions to restore clean water, healthy coastal ecosystems, and sustainable coastal communities. It will also ensure access to resilient, self-sustaining ecosystems of clean water, diverse habitats, and healthy populations of fish, shellfish, and other aquatic-dependent organisms.

We urge you to continue your support for preserving the ecological health of southeastern New England estuaries by funding the program at \$8 million for FY 2025. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

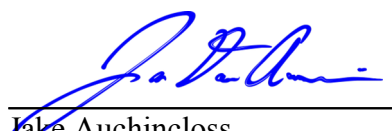
Sincerely,



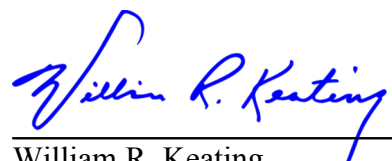
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress