

HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES  
8th DISTRICT, NEW YORK  
**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIONS  
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**DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**  
CHAIR



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

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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE)- Fresh Creek, NY Ecosystem Restoration Project in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project is located at E 108th St., Brooklyn, NY 11239.

This funding would be used for planning, engineering and design for the Fresh Creek portion of the Hudson Raritan Estuary project. Restoration of Fresh Creek provides the 2nd greatest benefits among all the HRE projects to be restored- providing ecosystem benefits and coastal storm risk management benefits serving as Natural and Nature Based Features (NNBFs) providing a natural buffer from waves, tides, winds and floods helping to reduce coastal shoreline erosion and property damage during storm events. Restoration of wetlands at the Fresh Creek site provide critical habitat that has been lost in the Jamaica Bay ecosystem. The restoration of more than 24 acres of wetlands (a scarce resource compared to historical levels) improves connectivity of currently fragmented vital nursery, nesting and feeding habitat from adjacent marsh islands for hundreds of migratory birds (including the federally-listed threatened piping plover and endangered rosette tern), fish and wildlife (terrapins and four endangered/threatened turtles). The dredging, regrading and capping of the channel at Fresh Creek will improve habitat and the hydrologic function and geomorphic characteristics resulting in improved tidal flushing and circulation, as well as improved water and sediment quality within the Bay. Restoration of Fresh Creek will create a sustainable and resilient shoreline in Brooklyn within the perimeter area of Jamaica Bay. In addition, the restoration of the Fresh Creek will benefit disadvantaged and Potential Environmental Justice Areas (PEJA). Within a one (1) mile

radius of this urbanized site, the population is 62,127 and is composed of 93% people of color, 37% are low income and all experience poor air quality (including diesel particulate matter [ $>95\%$ ], air toxic cancer risk [ $>95\%$ ], air toxic respiratory hazard index [ $>95\%$ ]). The Fresh Creek portion of the Hudson Raritan Estuary project is consistent with the President's Justice 40 Executive Order.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hakeem Jeffries", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hakeem Jeffries

Member of Congress