

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

November 17, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230 The Capitol

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 The Capitol

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221 The Capitol

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leaders Pelosi and Reid:

As Congress continues to work towards a comprehensive appropriations bill to fund our federal government for the remainder of fiscal year 2016, we would like to call your attention to a specific matter that is of particular concern for our delegation and state. The Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basins together provide critical water resources to a significant portion of our state. As such, we are writing to express our united opposition to any appropriation riders designed to supplant ongoing federal and judicial actions regarding these basins.

There are ongoing processes before the Supreme Court and the US Army Corps of Engineers to resolve the issues that affect these basins. We believe Congress should avoid interfering in these efforts through the appropriations process and allow the ongoing judicial and administrative processes to proceed to their conclusion. It is important to note that no state's rights or obligations will be affected or determined until those processes are complete, and no state will be harmed by allowing them to move forward in the usual course.

It is our view that this appropriations process is not the proper place to address the long-standing water policy issues affecting the states of Alabama, Florida and Georgia, which are already seeking resolution through the appropriate channels. The Corps of Engineers plays an important role in determining the use of water resources with federal court involvement when necessary. In the event neither the Corps of Engineers nor the federal courts are successful in resolving a dispute, the Constitution grants the Supreme Court final jurisdiction over disputes between the states. As such, action by the Corps of Engineers, and when necessary the Courts, are the proper channels to resolve these disputes.

We applaud and support the House Energy and Water Development and Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations legislation, which have already moved through the Appropriations Committee and the full House of Representatives, for being free of any extraneous legislative language that would interfere with the overall process. However, the same

cannot be said about the Senate versions of these two bills and their accompanying reports, which contain legislative and report language that would interfere in longstanding policies, practices and procedures for determining water withdrawals from the ACT River Basin specifically.

Our delegation stands united and we ask that you support our position against the inclusion of any language pertaining to the ACT and ACF River Basins in any appropriations legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Tom Graves

David A. Linder

Thomas Price

Lynn A. Westmacott

Scott Scott

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Bob Woodall

Jody Hice

James R. ...

James D. Bishop  
Lewis

David Scott

Ben ...

Kit W. All

Ray Call

Hank Johnson