



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

July 20, 2010

David Heysfeld, Chief of Staff
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

On May 13, 2010, I wrote to you describing the process for consideration of specific projects and studies that you had asked the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to include in H.R. ____, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2010" (WRDA 2010). I pointed out that there had been some confusion about the status of your requests because, on March 16, 2010, the Republican Conference had adopted a policy imposing a moratorium on all earmarks.

To clarify the status of your requests, I asked you to submit an original, signed letter to both Ranking Member John L. Mica and me by May 25, 2010, if you wanted to withdraw any of your requests for projects and studies from consideration for WRDA 2010.

Although I did not receive a letter of withdrawal from you, I received a May 25, 2010 letter from House Republican Leader John A. Boehner and Ranking Member Mica withdrawing your requests. The letter specifically states: "...we respectfully withdraw all previous Republican earmarks requests, as defined by clause 9 of House Rule XXI, for the Water Resources Development Act of 2010."

In the long history of this Committee, there is no precedent for party leadership to act on behalf of, or to override the will of, individual Members. You have made a good-faith request of this Committee for consideration of a project that will benefit your constituents, and submitted that project at their request.

However, notwithstanding our Committee history, I will accept the request of your leaders on your behalf. Accordingly, I write today to advise you that, in view of the letter from the Republican leaders, I will consider your requests to be withdrawn. As I explained in my prior letter, this withdrawal means that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will not consider your projects or studies for inclusion in the bill.

If you do not wish to withdraw your prior request(s) for a water resources development project or study in WRDA 2010, you may reaffirm your support for your request(s) by sending me a signed, original letter by July 23, 2010.

The Committee will consider H.R. _____, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2010", on July 29, 2010.

For your information, enclosed is a copy of my May 13, 2010 letter to you.

Sincerely,



James L. Oberstar, M.C.
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable John L. Mica, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment