



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

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September 2, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing this letter to urge your strong support for enabling the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to fully implement its design for the **National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP)** and to restore the USGS funding capacity so that the USGS can fully match non-federal cost-share investments by various partners, including Delaware partners, in the **Cooperative Water Program (CWP)**.

Delaware, similar to many other States in the County, relies heavily on the data collected by the USGS National Stream Monitoring Network. These data are used by many Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as academia and private businesses and consulting firms in Delaware to conduct a wide variety of studies and provide important services to protect the health and safety of our citizens and visitors. These programs include, but are not limited to, monitoring and protecting water quality, fisheries, wetlands and endangered species; analyzing climate change and evaluating community and regional response options; projecting future water needs and availability for agricultural, municipal and industrial uses; designing bridges, dams, and other infrastructure; forecasting storm surge, flood and drought conditions and issuing emergency advisories; and identifying flood-prone areas to protect lives and property.

Considering the significant role that the data collected by the USGS NSIP in Delaware and neighboring States play in various aspects of managing the health and safety of Delawareans and our visitors, I strongly urge your support for the Interior Department and OMB to enable the USGS to fully implement the NSIP as directed in PL 111-11 and to match the non-federal investment in the USGS monitoring networks. In Delaware, many State and local agencies have partnered with the USGS to support the NSIP program. However, continued funding and the expansion of federal funding is needed to ensure that the network


Delaware's Good Nature depends on you!

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of stream and tide gages in Delaware will continue their uninterrupted operations in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact John Schneider at (302) 739-9939 or by e-mail at john.schneider@state.de.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David S. Small". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

David S. Small,
Secretary

cc: John Schneider