

Testimony of Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, New York's 21st Congressional District

House Appropriations Committee FY21 Member Day Hearing

June 23, 2020

Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger, thank you for the opportunity to highlight a few Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations priorities unique to my district.

I proudly represent the Adirondack Park, an ecological treasure that contributes greatly to the culture and economy of the State of New York. The park is located directly downwind from power generating facilities in the Midwest and decades of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions led to the devastating acidification of many Adirondack lakes and ponds. While the Adirondacks have experienced a promising return to health, it is critical we remain diligent and continue to fund acid rain research and monitoring activities to ensure the ecological progress can continue, particularly as the warming, wetter, and more variable climate appears to be changing the way that acid deposition affects the ecosystem.

I respectfully request the Committee provide \$13 million for Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs in the Science and Technology account and \$15.5 million for Clean Air Allowance Trading Programs in the Environmental Programs and Management Account, both found in the EPA Clean Air Programs table. Additionally, I request the inclusion of report language to direct the EPA to complete the report required under 41 U.S.C. section 7403(j)(F), which was last completed in 2013. The timely completion of this report is essential to assessing the long-term emissions and acid deposition trends, monitoring changes in surface water quality and forest

conditions, and determining the reduction in deposition rates that must be achieved to prevent adverse ecological effects.

Another priority of mine is funding for the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), which coordinates and funds efforts that benefit the Lake Champlain Basin's water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation and cultural resources. Congress delivered over \$13 million for the LCBP in Fiscal Year 2020, which is being utilized to support numerous local organizations and communities throughout the region as they conduct projects to protect and promote Lake Champlain. I respectfully request no less funding be provided by the Committee for Fiscal Year 2021 so this important work can continue. Additionally, it is critical the funding Congress provides can be accessed broadly through the LCBP process and is not limited to certain projects in one geographic region of the basin.

Finally, as historic high-water levels continue to be observed across the Great Lakes and impact coastal homeowners and communities, it is critical that the International Joint Commission (IJC) be provided the resources necessary to complete its expedited review of Plan 2014 and determine what modifications or updates are necessary. I respectfully request the Committee provide \$9,802,000 for the IJC with the inclusion of report language to direct \$1,415,000 of this amount specifically for the IJC's Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee to conduct phase two of the expedited review of the performance of Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of these requests, which are critical to New York's 21st Congressional District.