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Congress Urged by the National Water Supply Alliance to Ensure the Corps has Sufficient Resources to Prioritize Water Supply

Dave Mitamura, the Executive Director of the National Water Supply Alliance, testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, yesterday. The subcommittee sought input from stakeholders to a draft legislative proposal to elevate water supply and water conservation to primary mission areas of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“We believe the proposed legislation would help to elevate the priority given to water within the Corps, encourage flexibility inside the agency when it comes to water supply projects and studies, and help make additional resources available to Corps staff so they can move water supply projects from study to implementation more quickly,” Mitamura testified.

According to the subcommittee, the proposed legislation, modeled on past efforts to elevate flood control and environmental restoration elements, is necessary to address bureaucratic obstacles preventing Congressionally-authorized and locally supported water supply and conservation elements from moving forward.

“The time required to complete and implement water supply studies and projects is a chronic challenge — one made even more so given our Nation’s rapidly evolving water supply needs,” said Mitamura. “These delays often result from a lack of resources and attention allocated to water supply.”

The committee sought and received reassurance from Mitamura that the proposal preserves the primary responsibility of states and local interests in managing local water supply concerns and does not impair traditional state authority to regulate the use and allocation of water.

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The National Water Supply Alliance advances the interests of water supply providers before Congress and federal agencies. Its members include state, regional, and local governments; wholesale water providers; and utilities that rely on water supply stored in

facilities maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. NWSA advocates for the preservation and enhancement of the nation's water supply and protection of traditional state authorities.