



National Association of Wetland Managers

“Dedicated to the Protection and Restoration of the Nation’s Wetlands”

SUGGESTED TIPS FOR WRITING A LETTER TO CONGRESS ON WETLAND PROGRAM FUNDING

Letter overview & logistics

- Please note – the information below is intended to be used as a guide for writing a letter to your U.S. Senator or Representative. If you do not have all the information suggested to include, just include what you know. The main goal is to tell your story as to why wetlands are important to your community and why Congress should appropriate more funding for state and Tribal wetland programs.
- Address to Senator X or Representative Y (see list of contacts)
- Best practice would be to send your letter both by email and USPS but if you can only do one that will still be effective. Please share a copy of your letter with NAWM by sending it to Donna Downing at donna@nawm.org.

Introduction

- Describe your “ask” ... such as you are writing to request the recipient’s support for use of Clean Water Act (CWA) section 104(b)(3) funds for implementing in addition to developing wetland programs, and/or increased funding.
- Describe your state’s or Tribe’s wetland resources and why wetlands are important to your community.

Describe the need

- Describe your state or Tribe’s wetland program’s history – when, why, and how it was established. Explain how the *Sackett* decision will impact your wetland program (e.g., increase in permitting applications due to X, Y, and Z; reduced protections; increased costs; etc.)
- Discuss your state’s or Tribe’s need for more federal funding – how would more funding help your state or Tribe protect its wetlands and water quality? How would more funding help improve permitting efficiency and clarity for the regulated public? How much more funding do you need and for what and why?
- How would changing the funding requirements from use for program development only to use for program development and/or implementation benefit your program (e.g., less time and expense for grant writing; maintains FT staff for greater program sustainability and consistency; reduces costs associated with having to retrain new staff, etc.).
- Explain how the fully competitive nature of the Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs) under Clean Water Act section 104(b)(3) program has been challenging for you and/or your state or Tribe.
- A point that NAWM is making and could be amplified with your letter: There is a critical need to increase wetland program funding over time. Wetland program funding under section 104(b)(3) has been flat for more than a decade at approximately \$14.5 million per year, and when adjusted for inflation current funding levels are a 22% reduction from ten years ago.

Closing

- Thank your Senator and/or Representative for considering additional federal support for state and Tribal wetland protection and restoration programs.
- Reiterate why wetlands are important to your community in a short sentence or two.
- If desired, offer an opportunity for them to contact you to discuss your concerns virtually or in-person.