



**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**

**Bill Shuster**  
**Chairman**

**Washington, DC 20515**

**Peter A. DeFazio**  
**Ranking Member**

Christopher P. Bertram, Staff Director

September 26, 2016

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

The Honorable Pete Sessions  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
H-312, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Rules  
1116 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member Slaughter,

I write to inform you that I intend to urge Members to join me in opposing H.R. 5303, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2016", because the Republican Leadership overruled the bipartisan process of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in developing this legislation, stripped a critical, bipartisan provision from the bill unanimously reported by the Committee, and presented a revised text to the Committee on Rules for consideration.

In addition, I write to request that the enclosed amendment be made in order. At the request of Republicans, the bill authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct soccer fields, baseball fields, covered basketball courts, and a splash park as part of an \$810 million Texas project.<sup>1</sup> Given that the Republican Leadership has broken our bipartisan agreement on this bill, I am able to openly oppose this waste of taxpayer dollars. My amendment prohibits using our limited Corps of Engineers budget to fund soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, and splash parks as part of this project. In addition, the amendment requires the project be held to the same standard as other Corps of Engineers' projects and be economically justified.

Up until last week, H.R. 5303 was developed in the bipartisan tradition of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committee and the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment working in concert to produce a bill that could be supported by all Members. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee Print does not reflect the compromise that passed out of Committee. Without our consultation or agreement, the Republican Leadership overruled the bipartisan process of our Committee, and stripped Section 108 from the Committee-reported bill. The stripped provision would have unlocked the Harbor Maintenance

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<sup>1</sup> Rules Committee Print 114-65 Text of H.R. 5303, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2016", sec. 401(8), Project No. 1, Upper Trinity River, Texas.

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Trust Fund to ensure that revenues collected from shippers are used to maintain U.S. coastal and Great Lakes harbors – and not diverted to cover other debts of the U.S. Treasury. Over the past decade, less than 60 percent of revenues collected in the Trust Fund have been used to maintain our Nation's harbors. Without this provision, the balance in the Trust Fund will double in the next decade to \$20 billion and continue to grow year after year, despite the tremendous needs of our Nation's ports and harbors.

I am incredibly disappointed that the Republican Leadership has sabotaged a good, bipartisan bill that would have maintained and strengthened our ports, harbors and waterways, and our Nation's economic competitiveness.

In addition, I am extremely concerned that despite Speaker Ryan's comments that the House should be using H.R. 5303 as a vehicle to address the ongoing tragedy facing the citizens of Flint, Michigan, the Republican Leadership has opposed every effort to include any assistance in this bill to help the city of Flint protect its citizens and children from ongoing health risks.

It is for these reasons that I plan to oppose H.R. 5303 when it is considered by the House.

Sincerely,



PETER DeFAZIO  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader, House of Representatives  
The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
The Honorable Bob Gibbs, Chairman, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment  
The Honorable Grace Napolitano, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment  
Members, Committee on Rules

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**  
**FOR H.R. 5303**  
**OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO OF OREGON**

Page 105, line 20, strike “The” and insert “(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—The”.

Page 111, after the table, insert the following:

1       (b) NO CORPS FUNDING FOR SOCCER FIELDS, BASE-  
2 BALL FIELDS, BASKETBALL COURTS, OR SPLASH  
3 PARKS.—Notwithstanding item 1 of the table in sub-  
4 section (a)(8), the Secretary shall not carry out the project  
5 for the Upper Trinity River, Modified Central City, Fort  
6 Worth, Texas—

7           (1) if the Secretary determines that any portion  
8 of the project is for the construction of a soccer  
9 field, baseball field, basketball court, or splash park  
10 using Federal funds provided through the Corps of  
11 Engineers; or

12           (2) notwithstanding section 116 of the Energy  
13 and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2005  
14 (Public Law 108–447; 118 Stat. 2944), until the

- 1 Secretary has determined that the project is eco-
- 2 nomically justified.

