COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEM CERTIFICATION
PURSUANT TO RULE XLIV
OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Name of the Senator requesting the congressionally directed spending item:

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

For the congressionally directed spending item, the name and location of the intended recipient or, if there is no specifically intended recipient, the intended location of the activity:

Blackstone River Valley Small Ecosystem Restoration, Woonsocket, RI

The purpose of the congressionally directed spending item:

Spanning across two states and encompassing twenty-four communities, the Blackstone Valley has undergone a transformation through ongoing regional projects, such as historical structure restoration and river renewal. Public-private partnerships and investments are revitalizing the region and fostering a sense of local pride in the Blackstone Valley. Restoring the river ecosystem is central to improving the Valley's natural environment and preserving its cultural heritage. We urge the Committee to authorize the Army Corps to perform aquatic ecosystem restoration projects in the Blackstone River Valley of Rhode Island. The authorization was included in the WRDA 2005 that passed the Senate.

Pursuant to Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I certify that neither my immediate family nor I has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending item requested.



(Signature of Senator)

Submit an original of this certification to Chairman Barbara Boxer, Committee on Environment and Public Works, 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, and Ranking Member James M. Inhofe, Committee on Environment and Public Works, 456 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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Blackstone River Flood Protection Projects, Woonsocket, RI

The purpose of the congressionally directed spending item:

Local protection project for flood control, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (H Doc 624, 78th Cong 2nd session), to allow the Corps to help the city with upgrades. The legislation would authorize the Secretary to undertake the necessary repairs to the project to fully restore it in order to meet its design level of protection. The estimated total cost of this project is up to $10,000,000, with a 65 percent federal and 35 percent non-federal cost share.

Pursuant to Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I certify that neither my immediate family nor I has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending item requested.



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Warwick Cove Channel project, Warwick, RI

The purpose of the congressionally directed spending item:

The Warwick Cove channel project is proposed by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council to modify the southern end of the Federal navigation channel so that the bend is removed and the channel provides direct (straight line) access to Greenwich Bay. This will reduce confusion and congestion in Warwick Cove, home to the largest concentration of vessels in Rhode Island. The project would also provide for safer navigation. An estimate of the material involved is about 50,000 cubic yards.

Pursuant to Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I certify that neither my immediate family nor I has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending item requested.



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Narragansett Bay Marine Debris Removal, Narragansett Bay, RI

The purpose of the congressionally directed spending item:

This project would authorize the Corps to remove marine debris, in-water pilings, and dilapidated marina structures located in Narragansett Bay and along the waterfront, and in addition, permit shoreline stabilization, reintroduce marine vegetation, and permit habit restoration. Marine debris poses a significant navigational hazard because it entangles rudders and propellers and clogs vessel intakes, resulting in engine failure. Keeping Narragansett Bay waters safe and navigable is important for commercial and recreational transportation in the state. The total cost would be $7,000,000 with a federal share of 65 percent and a non-federal share of 35 percent.

Pursuant to Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I certify that neither my immediate family nor I has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending item requested.



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Estuary Restoration Act Reauthorization, Various locations

The purpose of the congressionally directed spending item:

To make technical changes, such as date changes, additional reporting requirements, and an increase from $2.5 million to $5 million in the annual amounts authorized for small projects delegated to the Environmental Protection Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Require the Secretary to delegate the small projects in accordance with the interagency council's recommendations. These changes would result in an increase in the authorization of only $10 million per year.

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Waterfront Revitalization, Various locations

The purpose of the congressionally directed spending item:

Nationwide, communities are seeking to reconnect neighborhoods to their waterfronts. Many localities are developing ambitious revitalization plans which have the potential to produce significant public benefits, including environmental cleanup, job creation, increased tourism, and recreation. The Corps' current authorities limit the ability of local governments to tackle waterfront development projects comprehensibly. Existing Corps programs narrowly define permissible activities and impede ecosystem restoration, and environmental cleanup. To enhance federal support for these important projects that produce multiple community benefits, we respectfully request the Committee create a new authority that will permit the Corps of Engineers to assist communities with waterfront revitalization. Specifically, we request $250 million for planning, design, and construction of community waterfront improvement projects, and a $30 million continuing authority for waterfront planning and design.

Pursuant to Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I certify that neither my immediate family nor I has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending item requested.



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