

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115  
Majority (202) 225-3641  
Minority (202) 225-2927

March 19, 2026

Mr. David Burkhart  
Chief Executive Officer  
Garney Companies, Inc.  
1700 Swift Street, Suite 200  
North Kansas City, MO 64116

Dear Mr. Burkhart,

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, on February 20, 2026, the Committee on Energy and Commerce (Committee) launched an investigation into the DC Water's Potomac Interceptor (PI) wastewater collapse incident.<sup>1</sup> As part of its investigation, the Committee continues to obtain information from entities and individuals with knowledge that is relevant to this incident. According to the DC Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors, Garney Companies, Inc (Garney) was under consideration for a potential Emergency Master Service Agreement for the PI rehabilitation, which was anticipated to begin on May 15, 2025.<sup>2</sup> However, the contract was never finalized. The Committee is requesting information related to this contract and any additional information that your company may have related to the site of the PI wastewater collapse prior to the incident.

It is the Committee's understanding that the potential agreement between DC Water and Garney would have covered a period of two years. The purpose of this contract was stated to "[p]rovide program management, preconstruction and emergency construction services to rehabilitate and provide redundancy for the Potomac Interceptor."<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the project scope included a number of repairs and upgrades to improve the reliability of this critical infrastructure.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from The Hon. Brett Guthrie, Chairman, H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, et al., to David Gadis, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, DC Water, (Feb. 20, 2026), [https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/02\\_20\\_2026\\_Letter\\_to\\_DC\\_Water\\_ca0abccd39.pdf](https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/02_20_2026_Letter_to_DC_Water_ca0abccd39.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> D.C. Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors, Environmental Quality and Operations Committee, Apr. 17, 2025 Meeting Package, 20-21, [https://www.dewater.com/sites/default/files/event/2025-01/documents/Environmental%20Quality%20and%20Operations%20Committee%20Meeting%20Package%20-%2004.17.25\\_0.pdf](https://www.dewater.com/sites/default/files/event/2025-01/documents/Environmental%20Quality%20and%20Operations%20Committee%20Meeting%20Package%20-%2004.17.25_0.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 20.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 21.

**Contract Scope:**

- Emergency planning, design and response to address failures of the Potomac Interceptor
- High priority repair/rehabilitation of sections of the Potomac Interceptor to address sections that warrant repair in advance of longer-term capital projects
- Program management services to inspect, prioritize and develop projects to assure reliability and redundancy of Potomac Interceptor
- Preconstruction services to advance design and develop pricing for rehabilitation

*Image 1: “Contract Scope” of the Emergency Master Services Agreement for Potomac Interceptor Program<sup>5</sup>*

The collapsed portion of DC Water’s PI sewer line has resulted in what has been called “one of the largest sewage spills in U.S. history.”<sup>6</sup> The consequences of this spill continue to be evaluated, and the Committee remains concerned by the potential impacts to public health, safe drinking water, the environment, interstate commerce, and tourism. The resilience of our wastewater infrastructure systems remains critical, and the Committee aims to understand what risks were determined prior to this incident and how future incidents may be prevented.

To better understand the nature of previous contracts that were under consideration prior to the PI collapse, the Committee requests all documents and communications in Garney’s possession related to:

1. The proposal that Garney submitted to DC Water for work on the PI;
2. The unimplemented Emergency Master Service Agreement contract between DC Water and Garney for work on the PI, including all drafts; and
3. The area where the PI wastewater collapse occurred on January 19, 2026.

Please provide the requested material to the Committee by April 2, 2026. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Majority Staff at (202) 225-3641.

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 20.

<sup>6</sup> *UMD team finds E. coli, MRSA in Potomac River after sewage spill*, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH (Feb. 05, 2026), <https://sph.umd.edu/news/umd-team-finds-e-coli-mrsa-potomac-river-after-sewage-spill>.

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March 19, 2026

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Sincerely,



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Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



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John Joyce, M.D.  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations



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Gary Palmer  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment

cc: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and  
Commerce  
The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations  
The Honorable Paul D. Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment