



**American Rivers**  
RIVERS CONNECT US®

October 28, 2019

Ms. Madison Ball  
Restoration Program Manager  
Friends of the Cheat  
Via email [madison@cheat.org](mailto:madison@cheat.org)

Dear Ms. Ball,

I am writing to express American Rivers' enthusiastic support for your grant proposal to fund further investigation of the removal of the Albright Power Dam to reconnect aquatic habitat on the Cheat River.

In American Rivers' experience, removing a dam is the quickest and most cost-effective way to bring a river back to life. Removing dams that no longer serve a purpose provides multiple ecological and community benefits, including:

- eliminating obsolete infrastructure,
- improving water quality,
- increasing public safety,
- reconnecting aquatic habitat for vulnerable species, and
- expanding recreation access.

Based on available information, removal of the Albright Power Dam will significantly enhance recreational use and fisheries value of the Cheat River, which will in turn provide measurable economic benefits to the community. Friends of the Cheat is ideally positioned to undertake the additional investigation necessary to quantify the benefits of dam removal, to complete advance planning and preliminary design, and to engage the community in support of restoring the Cheat River through removal of this obsolete river barrier. American Rivers stands ready to assist you as you investigate, plan, and implement this important project.

Best wishes,

Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, AICP  
Director of River Restoration  
Western PA Field Office