

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson,

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2020 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include language in support of a new Investigations start for a multipurpose watershed study to address coastal resiliency, for which the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division could compete for funding.

Spanning eight states and containing 90% of the freshwater in the United States, the Great Lakes watershed acts as one of our country's most significant economic and environmental assets. The livelihoods of approximately 40 million people depend on the welfare of this expansive ecosystem, and the significance of this relationship is especially clear in the many coastal communities of the Great Lakes region. Unfortunately, rising water levels across the Great Lakes pose a serious threat to the safety and economic wellbeing of these communities.

According to measurements and forecasts from the Army Corps of Engineers, water levels across the Great Lakes watershed have consistently exceeded long-term averages in recent years. This troubling pattern has serious consequences for constituents in our districts, with many communities already dealing with the effects of sustained flooding, coastal erosion, and severe damage to port and harbor infrastructure. Substantive federal investments are needed to mitigate economic and environmental threats in coastal areas and ensure the health of the Great Lakes region for future generations.

The Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers would facilitate cooperation between federal, state and local officials in assessing coastal vulnerabilities throughout the Great Lakes. The proposed study would play a critical role in compiling data and developing resiliency measures for a wide range of threats across 5,200 miles of shoreline in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. In recognition of the immense benefits these efforts would have for the Great Lakes region, multiple states have already expressed their intention to partner with the Army Corps of Engineers and share the costs of the project.

With communities throughout the Great Lakes Region facing potentially devastating consequences as a result of inaction, we request the following language be inserted into the FY20 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill:

Sec. _____, Of the new starts in Investigations, in the appropriate categories the Army Corps of Engineers shall consider a multi-purpose watershed study to address coastal resiliency.

Including this language would help to ensure critical investments in the financial and physical wellbeing of our constituents, and the economic security of coastal communities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John Katko
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



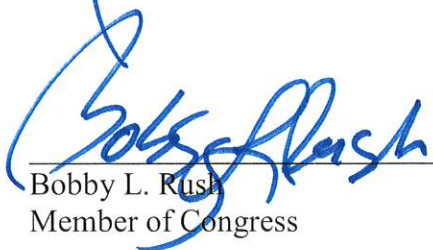
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Member of Congress



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