

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Chairman
The Honorable Mike Simpson, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson,

As you develop the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2020, we urge you to provide \$79 million for the National Levee Safety Program, as authorized.

30,000 miles of levees protect communities, critical infrastructure, and trillions of dollars in property nationwide. Upgrading levees prevents billions in flood damage and provides a more than 20:1 return on investment for taxpayers. The average levee in the United States is 50 years old, with an estimated \$80 billion in repairs and maintenance needed in the next 10 years. The American Society of Civil Engineers' most recent infrastructure report card gave the nation's levees a "D" grade.

Authorized in 2014, the National Levee Safety Program seeks to promote consistent safety standards, create levee safety guidelines, and provide funding assistance to states. However, the program has yet to receive funding other than for the national levee inventory. A 2016 Government Accountability Office report found that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have made little progress implementing the National Levee Safety Program to date, due to lack of funding. Approving our request to fully funding the National Levee Safety Program would:


- Improve coordination and raise risk awareness
- Complete the national inventory of levees outside of the Army Corps' authority
- Support levee rehabilitation and repairs nationwide

Communities across the nation rely on levees for flood control to reduce risk to homes, businesses, and property. With more than 50 percent of Americans living within 50 miles of a coastline or in floodplains, levees play an important safety role as our nation faces increasingly frequent and severe flooding. Thank you for your leadership on the Subcommittee and for considering this bipartisan request.


Sincerely,


JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



BRUCE WESTERMAN
Member of Congress




STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress




MAX ROSE
Member of Congress




RODNEY DAVIS
Member of Congress



AL GREEN
Member of Congress




JERRY McNERNEY
Member of Congress




DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Member of Congress




ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



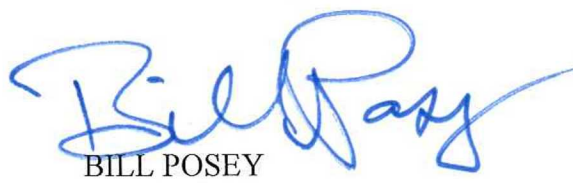
SEAN CASTEN
Member of Congress



DOUG LaMALFA
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



BILL POSEY
Member of Congress



ROGER W. MARSHALL, M.D.
Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress



AMI BERA, M.D.
Member of Congress



JENNIFFER GONZALEZ-COLÓN
Member of Congress



MARK DeSAULNIER
Member of Congress



ANN M. KUSTER
Member of Congress



TERRI A. SEWELL
Member of Congress



CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



KATIE PORTER
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



ABBY FINKENAUER
Member of Congress



SHARICE DAVIDS
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress




JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress




DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



ANTONIO DELGADO
Member of Congress



JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress



DARIN LaHOOD
Member of Congress



BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress



RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
Member of Congress



DANIEL W. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress



CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
Member of Congress



A. DONALD McEACHIN
Member of Congress



CONOR LAMB
Member of Congress



MIKE JOHNSON
Member of Congress



ELAINE G. LURIA
Member of Congress



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress