

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2020

Vance Stewart, III
Senior Official Performing the Duties of
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
U.S. Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, D.C. 20310

Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon
Chief of Engineers and Commander General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear Mr. Stewart and Lieutenant General Spellmon:

We request that you include funds to initiate a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) of the Chicago Shoreline Storm Damage Reduction Project in the Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Work Plan.

Over the past two decades, the Army Corps of Engineers has worked closely with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District to reconstruct approximately nine miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, protecting critical infrastructure from coastal storm damage. While the authorized project is nearly complete and is providing substantial benefits, Lake Michigan has experienced record high lake levels every month between January and August 2020, and several remaining areas of shoreline have experienced significant erosion, storm damage, and flooding as a result of damaging waves and surge. The City of Chicago has taken substantial emergency action to reduce additional damage to failed shore protection revetments and potential threats to life safety. However, the extent of the damage experienced over the last year has underscored the critical need for a more comprehensive and long-term solution.

Since 2015, the City of Chicago has requested the Army Corps of Engineers initiate a study to reevaluate the authorized project and the conclusions of the original feasibility report in order to assess federal interest in providing additional coastal protection along the shoreline. The study aims to reevaluate the uncompleted segments of the currently authorized project, including Morgan Shoals and Promontory Point, in addition to several areas that have recently experienced significant coastal damage, including Juneway Terrace Beach and Park to Osterman Beach, Montrose Beach and Pier, North Avenue to Oak Street Beach, 67th Street at South Shore Drive which includes the La Rabida Children's Hospital, 71st to 75th Street, and Rainbow Beach, which includes the South Water Purification Plant.

Given the extent of coastal damage from these record lake levels, it is urgent that the Army Corps of Engineers move forward with this reevaluation study to identify long-term solutions needed to protect critical infrastructure along the shoreline. In order to do so, we request that \$200,000 be included in the Army Corps' FY2021 Work Plan to initiate a GRR of the Chicago Shoreline Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project. The City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District have both already indicated their shared commitment to cost sharing the study, as required by law.

Both houses of the United States Congress recently expressed their support for advancing the Shoreline Project GRR in both the FY21 Omnibus Appropriations Act and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 that were passed in December 2020. It is clear that there is a broad acknowledgement that additional efforts to address these serious shoreline issues are necessary.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working closely with you on the execution of this desperately needed study, and engaging in a long, productive partnership to address the shoreline.

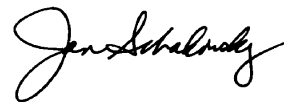
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dick Durbin".

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy Duckworth".

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Schakowsky".

Jan Schakowsky
United States Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Quigley".

Michael Quigley
United States Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin L. Kelly".

Robin L. Kelly
United States Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny K. Davis".

Danny K. Davis
United States Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby L. Rush".

Bobby L. Rush
United States Representative