

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 10, 2019

R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
U.S. Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Commander General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Assistant Secretary James and Lieutenant General Semonite:

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) 2020 Work Plan.

Over the past two decades, the Corps in partnership with the City of Chicago and Chicago Park District have reconstructed approximately nine miles of the Lake Michigan shoreline protecting critical infrastructure from coastal storm damage. While the authorized project is nearly complete and is providing substantial benefits, the shoreline is currently experiencing record high lake levels and several remaining areas of the shoreline have experienced significant erosion, storm damage and flooding from damaging waves and surge. As a result, the City has taken substantial emergency action to reduce further damage to failed shore protection revetments and threats to life safety. However, the extent of damage experienced over just a few short months has underscored the need for a more comprehensive and long-term solution.

Since 2015 the City of Chicago has requested the Corps to initiate a study to re-evaluate the authorized project and the conclusions of the original feasibility report to assess federal interest in providing additional coastal protection along the shoreline. The study aims to re-evaluate the uncompleted segments of the currently authorized project including Morgan Shoals and Promontory Point, along with 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 Streets, and Rainbow Beach which includes the South Water Purification Plant.

Given the extent of coastal damage from near record lake levels, it is urgent that the Corps moves forward with this re-evaluation study to identify long-term solutions to further protect critical infrastructure along the shoreline. In order to do so, we request that \$200,000 be included in the Corps FY 2020 Work Plan to initiate a GRR of the Chicago Shoreline Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project. The City of Chicago has already indicated its commitment to cost sharing the study, as required by law.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working closely with you on the execution of this desperately needed study.

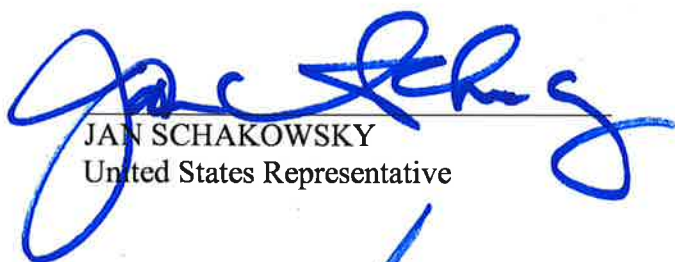
Sincerely,



DICK DURBIN
United States Senator



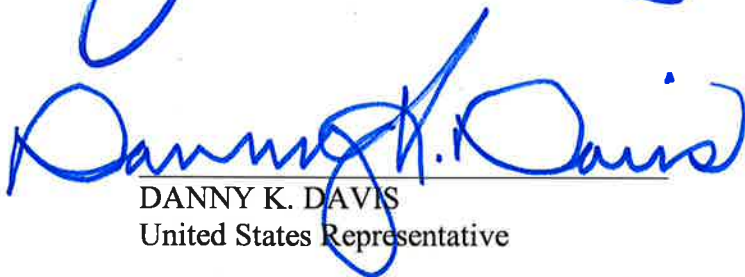
TAMMY DUCKWORTH
United States Senator



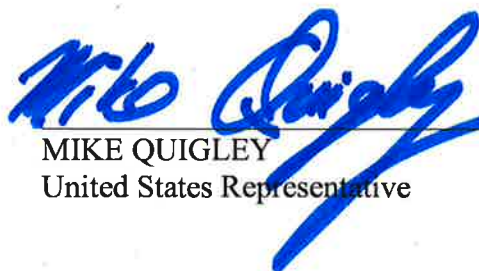
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
United States Representative



BOBBY RUSH
United States Representative



DANNY K. DAVIS
United States Representative



MIKE QUIGLEY
United States Representative



ROBIN KELLY
United States Representative