

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

May 20, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Water Resources and Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Water Resources and Environment  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Gibbs and Ranking Members DeFazio and Napolitano:

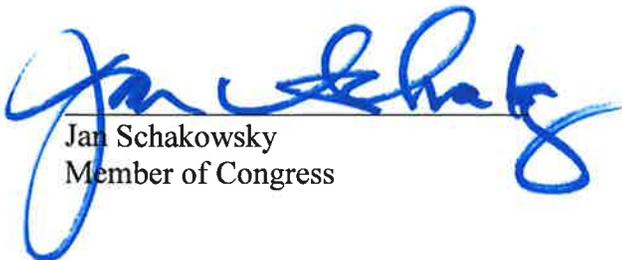
As the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee advances this year's Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), I urge you to authorize Phase II of the Des Plaines River project.

The Des Plaines River project addresses significant flooding risk in northeastern Illinois while supporting the local economy and ecosystem. The area surrounding the Des Plaines River has experienced repeated flooding in recent years, including significant flooding in May 2004, August 2007, September 2008, December 2008, and April 2013. Phase I of the Des Plaines River project was authorized in the 1999 WRDA bill and supported construction of six structural elements and a flood warning system. Phase II would advance flood risk management in the region. It would provide an additional two reservoirs and three levees as well as hundreds of smaller flood mitigation measures. In addition, the project includes seven sites for ecosystem restoration, improving ten square miles of aquatic habitat.

As Phase I of the Des Plaines River project concludes, Phase II of the Des Plaines River project is ready for authorization. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Report on Phase II of the Des Plaines River project was signed last year and approved by the Office of Management and Budget on January 4, 2016. The project has already been included the WRDA bill reported out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on April 28, 2016.

Further flood risk management on the Des Plaines River is critical to the safety of area residents. This investment will also provide jobs and restore the environment. I urge you to support its authorization. Thank you for your work to advance a WRDA bill this year.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

*Danny K. Davis*

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

*Robin L. Kelly*

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

*Luis V. Gutiérrez*

Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

*Tammy Duckworth*

Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

*Daniel Lipinski*

Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress

*Bill Foster*

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

*Bobby L. Rush*

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress