

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2018

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
Headquarters, United States Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Assistant Secretary James and Lieutenant General Semonite,

As members of the bipartisan House Great Lakes Task Force, we write to urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to support the projects listed below by providing funds in the fiscal year 2019 work plan as well as requesting appropriations in the President's budget request for fiscal year 2020. These projects are of critical importance to the environment and economy of our districts and the entire Great Lakes region.

Asian Carp

Asian carp present a serious economic and environmental threat to the Great Lakes. To thwart this threat to our billion dollar fishing and boating industries, USACE must provide funding to complete the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Chief's Report and begin the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) phase of the project, address multiple pathways for Asian carp to enter the Great Lakes, and ensure the continued operation of the electric dispersal barrier.

In the FY2019 work plan, we request that USACE allocates a total of \$23.51 million across the following projects:

- \$496,000 to complete the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS)-Brandon Road Study and \$3.8 million for the federal portion of the funding needed to proceed to Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) work.
- \$310,000 for GLMRIS-Program Management, the amount needed for the USACE to coordinate with stakeholders, participate in the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, and begin work on two additional pathways – Ohio's Little Killbuck Creek and Erie Canal – through which Asian carp could enter the Great Lakes.
- \$18.9 million for the Electric Dispersal Barriers near Romeoville, Illinois, as included in the enacted FY2019 bill.

For the FY2020 budget, we ask that \$24.2 million be requested for the following:

- \$4.9 million for Brandon Road Preconstruction, Engineering and Design work.

- \$315,000 for GLMRIS Program Management.
- \$18.9 million Electric Dispersal Barriers near Romeoville, Illinois.

Soo Locks

The Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan serve as a linchpin of America's economy by connecting our industrial heartland's heavy manufacturing with nearly 80 million tons of critical upstream goods and raw materials. A report by the Department of Homeland Security concluded it was "hard to conceive" of a single piece of infrastructure more consequential in terms of impact to the economy of an unexpected and sustained closure.

To prevent such a closure, sufficient funding must be provided to operate and maintain the Soo Locks. We appreciate the allocation of \$57 million in the FY2018 work plan which was necessary to provide sufficient funding for major rehabilitation work at the Soo Locks over the next three years. In the FY2019 work plan, we urge the inclusion of \$16.6 million be for asset renewal work that is also crucial to ensure the operation of the Lock in the coming year.

Given the economic calamity that would result in a failure of the locks, we urge you to safeguard the uninterrupted flow of commerce by allocating \$74 million in the FY2019 work plan and \$92 million in the FY2020 budget request to move forward with construction of a second Poe-sized lock.

Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study

The Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study proposed by USACE, in consultation with Great Lakes states, would be groundbreaking in its strategy to manage and protect the Great Lakes and its 5,200-mile coastline from threats associated with lake erosion, runoff, flooding, lake level fluctuations, and aging infrastructure.

Regional planning of this nature has been proven to result in more comprehensive, coherent, and cost effective policy which is why it is supported by seven Great Lakes states, USACE's Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and several federal agencies with missions in coastal management.

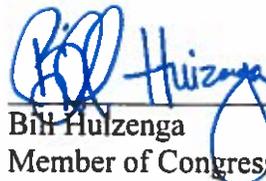
We urge the USACE to allocate \$1.2 million in funding for the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study in the FY2019 work plan and \$3.6 million in the FY2020 budget request.

We thank you for considering these important requests.

Sincerely,



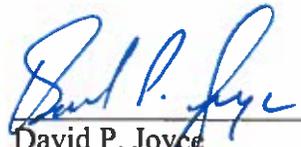
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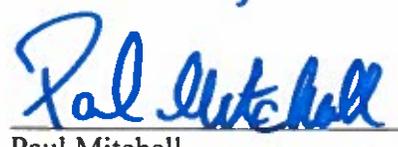
Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



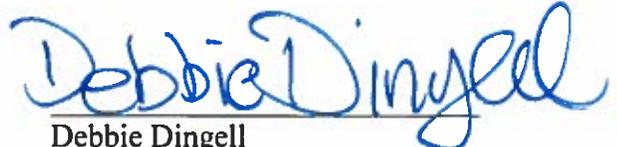
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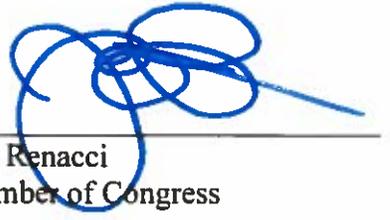
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