

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2014

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

As you prepare to work on the Fiscal Year 2015 Work Plan for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we respectfully request that you include funding for the Rahway River Basin Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study.

The Rahway River Basin has a drainage area of approximately 82 square miles and encompasses Essex, Union, and Middlesex counties. Several of the towns along the river have experienced numerous floods over the decades, most recently damaged by Tropical Storm Floyd in September 1999, the April 2007 Nor'easter, and Hurricane Irene in August 2011.

The New York District Army Corps Office and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), as the non-federal sponsor, have made significant progress on the feasibility study for the upper fluvial area of the Rahway River Basin. We appreciate their efforts in working with the local communities to take initially ten alternatives and narrow the alternatives down to two approaches. All of the stakeholders involved with this study agree that we are in striking distance of completing this important feasibility study.

As you are aware, the feasibility study has received federal funding and \$1.4 million in federal funds is needed to complete the study. NJDEP is committed to funding the remaining non-federal share. We were disappointed that the study was not funded in the FY 2014 Work Plan considering it was funded in the work plans for Fiscal Years 2011, 2012 and 2013. Recently, we were informed by your office that a decision was made last year to combine the upper basin study area with the lower basin area as a result of funding through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act. Our understanding is that this decision resulted in the upper basin study area not being funded in the 2014 Work Plan.


We are encouraged that the Corps has reviewed further analysis that revealed there are significant differences in flooding issues between the upper fluvial and lower tidal basin areas. We agree that the funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act should focus on lower basin area that was flooded as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The upper basin study area and the lower tidal area are two distinct areas that should continue as separate study areas.

As you formulate the 2015 Work Plan, we request that the Army Corps fund the upper basin area study in the Work Plan to the fullest extent possible to expedite completion of the study.. The Rahway River Basin study has a history of competing favorably compared to other studies. The

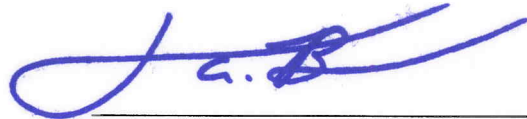
funding history of this study demonstrates a substantial commitment by the federal government, and we should ensure that this study is fully completed.

Understanding that the FY2015 appropriation bills must be completed before the FY2015 Work Plan is finalized; we thank you in advance for your consideration to this request.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator