

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 14, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Donovan:

As you prepare to finalize the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), we respectfully request that you continue to include funding for flood risk management projects important to the State of New Jersey.

The Rahway River Basin Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study continues to make substantial progress towards a determining an alternative to be considered as a tentative select plan. 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 damage in the Rahway River Basin area from Hurricane Irene reached an estimated \$100 million. It is estimated that \$380,000 will be needed in FY 2017 to complete the feasibility study.

The Raritan River, Green Brook Sub-Basin project is located within the Raritan River Basin in north-central New Jersey in the counties of Middlesex, Somerset and Union. We appreciate the annual support from the Administration to fund this flood control project so that it can advance expeditiously, which is critical to protecting both life and property. It is our understanding that USACE is capable of undertaking \$20 million in construction for the project in Fiscal Year 2017. This funding would be used to proceed with construction of segment C1, consisting of a section of levee/floodwall located south of the South Lincoln Avenue Bridge. It would also encompass modifications to the South Lincoln Avenue Bridge, which crosses the Bound Brook River between Segments C and H in the Borough of Middlesex.

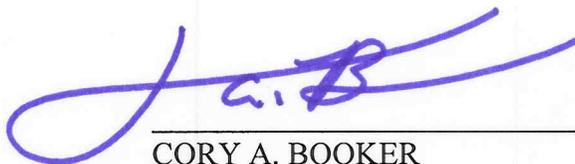
In addition to requesting funding for general construction activities, we further understand that the USACE is prepared to and capable of proceeding with a General Investigation of the Green Brook Upper Basin, with a capability of approximately \$300,000 in Fiscal Year 2017. This funding will be used for USACE to initiate and verify the feasibility of plans on the Upper Basin or to scope out alternatives since the original General Reevaluation Report (GRR) was performed in 1997. This work would investigate plans and alternatives in Watchung and Berkeley Heights and the effects of those potential efforts downstream.

We appreciate the Administration's previous support for these two critical flood risk management projects and encourage their inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget. We look forward to working with you on these important flood control projects.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator

cc: Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Brigadier General William Graham, Commanding General USACE North Atlantic Division
Colonel David Caldwell, Commander, USACE New York Division