

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2014

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

Dear Director Donovan:

As you prepare to finalize the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we respectfully request that you fund the Rahway River Basin Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study to its full capability level.

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.

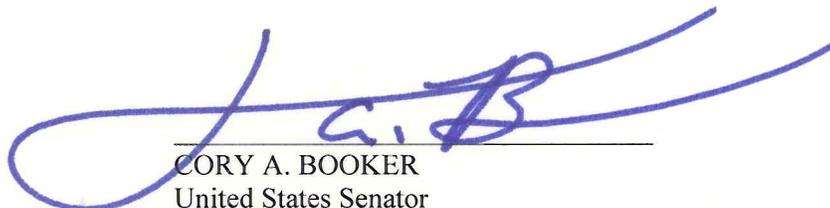
As you are aware, the feasibility study has received previous federal funding and an additional \$1.4 million in federal funds is needed to complete the study. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), as the non-federal sponsor, is committed to funding the remaining non-federal share. The New York District Army Corps Office and NJDEP 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 narrow down the initial ten alternatives to two. All of the stakeholders involved with this study agree that we are in striking distance of completing this important feasibility study.

We appreciate your consideration to include the Rahway River Basin Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and look forward to working with you on this most important flood control project.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator



CORY A. BOOKER  
United States Senator



DONALD PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress



LEONARD LANCE  
Member of Congress

cc: Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
Brigadier General Kent D. Savre, Commanding General USACE North Atlantic Division  
Colonel Paul E. Owen, Commander, USACE New York Division