

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 24, 2015

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We write to urge you to include language in the upcoming appropriations package to provide minimal levels of funding for the authorized projects in the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA).

Currently, there are numerous projects authorized by WRRDA, yet receiving no federal funds through the appropriations process, as authorizations exceed appropriated amounts. Unfortunately, many of these projects are not able to meet Administration requirements for inclusion in the Presidential budget.

However, after a limited seven year timeframe, these projects will be de-authorized and cannot receive federal funds. We request the Committee consider providing minimal funding to all 2014 authorizations to ensure their long term viability which give the ability of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address the infrastructure needs of less populous, yet vitally important areas of the country. By ensuring these projects receive their overdue funding, we remain hopeful other mechanisms will result in an accelerated timeline for many projects in rural and small communities.

Accordingly, we ask that you consider include robust funding in the resulting omnibus Appropriations Act, as well as the following language:

“The Committee directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consider as many and wide ranging positive economic effects of communities when allocating funds provided for under this Act.”

We ask that you to consider the result of a lack of infrastructure, particularly flood protection, projects would have on important sectors of our economy and small communities that rely on federal funding for properly constructed protections.

Unfortunately, we know first-hand how important receiving federal funding, especially for rural communities, is for timely completion of these projects. In 2008, massive flooding devastated

Iowa communities along the Cedar River –along with others around the country- which many are still rebuilding and recovering. These communities are making efforts to mitigate future disasters and massive recovery losses with investments in flood protection and control today. These investments will not only ensure the economic stability of the region, but reduce reliance on taxpayers in the future.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request, and for your continued leadership on your Committee.

Sincerely,



Rod L. Blum
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress