

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 17, 2012

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 work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 work plan for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we respectfully request that you include funding for high priority flood control projects in New Jersey. Hurricane Irene and other natural disasters caused severe flooding throughout New Jersey, and we ask for your consideration of the studies listed below that are in the General Investigations category and are in severe flood areas.

The Corps is in the early stages of a reevaluation study of the Passaic River Basin, a chronic flood area that is home to approximately 2.5 million people and 20,000 homes and businesses. Following Hurricane Irene, many towns in the area were submersed, and President Obama came to the area to view the extensive damage first-hand. The reevaluation study for the Passaic River Main Stem project is a crucial effort to find a long-term solution to the flooding. Given the scale of this project and the constant flooding in the basin, it is critical that the maximum amount of funding be provided in the FY 2012 work plan to move this forward as quickly as possible.

The Rahway River Basin is a frequent flood zone, and Hurricane Irene led to severe flooding in Cranford Township and other municipalities in the area. The Corps is evaluating this problem but at least \$2 million more is needed to complete the study. We understand that the current capability for FY 2012 is \$250,000, and we request that the work plan include at least this amount of funding.

The Corps continues to study flooding in the Millstone River Basin, Stony Brook area, where Hurricane Irene caused extensive damage to nearby homes and businesses. In particular, the storm flooded the Borough of Manville, and much of the town was under water for days. We understand that the current capability for FY 2012 is \$400,000, and we request that the work plan include at least this amount of funding.

The South River, Raritan River Basin project is within the lower Raritan Basin in Middlesex County, and strong storms have led to flooding in the surrounding towns such as Sayreville and South River. We understand that the current capability for FY 2012 is \$300,000, and we request that the work plan include at least this amount of funding.

The Peckman River is a tributary of the Passaic River that causes frequent flooding in Essex and Passaic counties. We understand that the current capability for FY 2012 is \$200,000, and we request that the work plan include at least this funding level to move this important project forward.

The Delaware River Basin encompasses more than 13,500 square miles in 28 counties in New Jersey, New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania. The basin frequently results in flooding and the Corps, under the Delaware River Basin Comprehensive Interim Feasibility Study for New Jersey, is evaluating plans to remedy the flood problems. We understand the current capability for FY 2012 is \$500,000, and we request that the work plan include this funding to support this project.

Thank you for considering these requests.

Sincerely,


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG


ROBERT MENENDEZ