

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation
& Infrastructure
2251 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation
& Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorizations of U.S. Army Corps studies and projects ensure the safety of Kansas City families and local businesses from flooding. One such project, the **Kansas City Levees project/Armourdale and Central Industrial District Levee Units**, is a collection of seven levee units covering 60 miles along the Missouri and Kansas Rivers through the center of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Phase 1 of the project is currently authorized and under construction, and the Phase 2 Chief's Report (for Armourdale and Central Levee Units) was signed January 27, 2015. Phase 2 needs Congressional authorization to move forward to construction, and is included in the main report of the 2016 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Annual Report to Congress.


We want to echo the local sponsors' request that the existing Phase 1 authorization be modified to add the Phase 2 Levee Units of Armourdale and Central Industrial District in Missouri and Kansas. This would increase the total project cost to \$516 million and allow the seven levee units to continue operating as one system. Combining both phases under one authorization will improve the project's efficiency in terms of management and annual requests for federal funding.

These levees along the Missouri and Kansas Rivers provide critical flood protection to the economic heart of the Kansas City metropolitan area. These levees protect our most densely developed business regions, containing over 5,000 commercial, industrial, and residential structures totaling over \$20 billion in investments. These areas provide over 94,000 jobs and homes to 24,000 people. The project improvements have a combined benefit cost ratio of 5.4 to 1. Additionally, the seven levees protect one of the largest railroad hubs in the country.

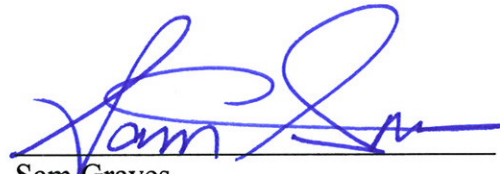
This project is crucial to our congressional districts and we urge the Committee to include the project modification to combine the phases under one authorization in this year's WRDA, as the project sponsors have requested. If that is not possible, we would also support congressional authorization of Phase 2, the Armourdale and Central Industrial District Levees, per the signed

Chief's Report and inclusion in the 2016 Annual Report to Congress. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress