

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:

Thank you for your commitment to water infrastructure and your efforts to move Congress back toward a two-year Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) process. We look forward to working with you this year to move a WRDA bill through the House of Representatives, and we wish to express support for several projects essential to our congressional districts that are in the 2016 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Annual Report to Congress.

Under Section 902 of WRDA 1986, Congress must reauthorize a project that exceeds its authorized cost by 20 percent. Unfortunately, the backlog of Corps projects and incremental funding has resulted in delays for several Kansas City projects, and others across the country, pushing them over the 902 limit. We urge the Committee to include these vital project cost modifications in this year's WRDA.


Turkey Creek Basin Flood Damage Reduction Modification is an increase in the authorized 902 limit for the Turkey Creek project in Missouri and Kansas. The modification is needed to complete construction of the remaining 2 phases of the project, including channel widening, bridge relocations, tunnel modifications, and hillside interceptors. Turkey Creek is an urban stream that flows 15 miles through the Kansas City metropolitan area. Frequent flooding every 3-4 years poses significant damages, as well as risk to loss of life to the existing residential, commercial and industrial areas. Channel widening, levee construction, tunnel modifications and hillside interceptors will realize more than \$5 million in annual benefits.

Blue River Basin (Dodson Industrial District) Flood Damage Reduction Modification is an increase in the 902 limit to complete the project along the Blue River in the south-central portion of Kansas City, Missouri. The project will provide flood risk reduction in the Dodson Industrial Area, with a 500-year levee and gate system, comprised of a 6,800 foot levee-floodwall along the north bank of the Blue River. Dodson has a total property investment of \$380 million from a public works facility and 30 commercial and industrial firms employing 1,500 people. The project will provide safe emergency access to the surrounding commercial centers and connecting highways that are frequently flooded and impassable. Phases 1-3 have been completed, but without completion of the final phase, the entire project is at risk.

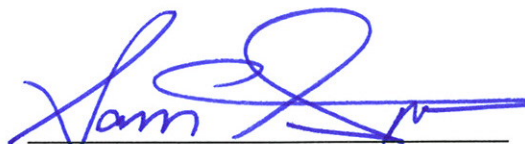
Swope Park Industrial Area Flood Damage Reduction Modification is an increase to the 902 limit to \$32 million to complete the project. Swope Park Industrial Area is a 50-acre site located near the Blue River and adjacent to a Union Pacific Railroad track. Only one access road exists into the business park crossing the railroad tracks and creating a safety issue in emergency situations. The project will provide flooding relief and permanent safe passage for the 400 workers in the industrial area.

Each of these projects has strong public support from the city sponsors and the business community. Turkey Creek and Blue River Basin have Director's Reports that were signed on November 4th, 2015 and Swope Park Industrial Area should have a Director's Report signed shortly. We strongly support these projects and ask that the Committee include their authorization modifications in this year's WRDA legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress