Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 21, 2015

Col. Elmer Speights, Jr.
Rock Island District
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Dear Col. Spreights:

We respectfully request the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) prioritize the Flood Risk Management project for Cedar Rapids, Iowa as authorized by Congress in the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014* (WRRDA).

As you know, in June 2008, Cedar Rapids was devastated by flood waters, resulting in an estimated $2.4 billion of destruction– destroying or damaging thousands of residential and commercial properties, along with important local government buildings such as the police station, courthouse, and City Hall. Following the devastation, plans were initiated to construct levees, floodwalls, and closure structures on the banks of the Cedar River – including a $73.1M authorization for federal funding in WRRDA.

Now that the Corps has the authorization necessary to move forward with the construction of the infrastructure along the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, we respectfully request you continue to work with state and local stakeholders to complete the project in a timely manner. We understand the difficulty the Corps faces in distributing funds for all authorized projects, however, we wish to express the importance of this project to prevent a similar catastrophe in the future and protect lives and property of Iowans.

Additionally, we request the Corps, as the process moves forward, please provide us with timely project status updates in order to keep our constituents as informed as possible.

If you have questions, please contact Peter Mihalick, Legislative Director and Counsel in Mr. Blum's office via email at peter.mihalick@mail.house.gov or Mitch Adams, Legislative Assistant in Mr. Loebsack's office at mitch.adams@mail.house.gov.

We look forward to working with you to see the successful completion of the Cedar Rapids flood risk management project.

Sincerely,

Rod L. Blum
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

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