

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2017

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305 CB-H, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Michael Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Simpson and Ranking Members Lowey and Kaptur:

We are writing to ask for your continued support of robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Energy and Water appropriations bill. As the nation's primary water resources development agency, USACE has a long history of cooperation with many communities across our nation including in South Florida. From large, multi-year regional civil works studies and projects, to smaller, locally focused projects, USACE has worked hand in hand with our South Florida community for decades to develop our water resources and meet critical local needs. USACE is also deeply involved in projects that reduce flood damage, restore our precious ecosystem, protects our wetlands, stabilizes our shorelines, provide recreational opportunities, and respond to natural disasters and emergency situations. Continuing our strong bipartisan support for this important agency is therefore critical to the future of Florida's economy, ecosystems, and communities.

Operations and maintenance dredging, flood risk management, coastal storm risk management, feasibility studies, and other operations performed by the Corps are critical to our local communities. As a community dependent on ports and waterways which facilitate the transportation of billions of dollars' worth of goods and millions of people annually, we are eager to see a continuation of USACE's efforts to maintain navigable waterways and plan for future maritime traffic by continuing to advance major deepening projects throughout the state. Furthermore the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, through its contracts, is estimated to create more than 4300 jobs in Florida in FY 2018.

With more miles of coastline than any other State in the continental United States, Florida is uniquely at risk for coastal erosion. Without consistent beach renourishment, flood protection measures, and environmental infrastructure funding, our communities face coastal erosion, diminished drinking water supplies, flooding, lost tourism revenue, and threats to wildlife. For these reasons, it is critically important that the Corps continue its work in Florida to ensure our ecosystems are preserved for future generations.

As the third most populous state in the nation and one that is heavily impacted by Corps projects, we urge you consider Florida and the many other states that rely on funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress