

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 2021

The Honorable Jaime A. Pinkham
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Pinkham and Lieutenant General Spellmon:

We write to express our strong support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' New York/New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study and to request that it be fully funded in your plan for the Disaster Supplemental that President Biden signed into law on September 30.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy ravaged the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic United States. This historic storm killed more than 280 people and caused more than \$70 billion in damage, making it one of the costliest natural disasters in American history. To this day, many Americans continue to feel the effects of this devastating storm.

Today, the New York and New Jersey Harbor and tributary region—which includes all of New York City, the Hudson River to Troy, NY; the lower Passaic, Hackensack, Rahway, and Raritan Rivers; the Upper and Lower Bays of New York Harbor, Newark, Jamaica, Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays; the Kill Van Kull, Arthur Kill and East River tidal straits; and Western Long Island Sound—remains vulnerable to extreme weather events. We were reminded of this disturbing fact last month, when Hurricane Ida and its remnants caused torrential downpours and significant flooding in low-lying neighborhoods in the Northeast, tragically killing 16 people in New York and 30 in New Jersey. The storm demonstrated that our constituents and local businesses remain at risk, and the communities we represent need more assistance.

That is why we support the New York/New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study, which aims to develop a comprehensive, long-term plan for protecting the region from future storms. We believe that a preventive investment in coastal storm risk management methods is preferable to significantly more expensive emergency recovery efforts after each natural disaster. After the Feasibility Study is completed, the recommendations in the Chief of Engineer's Report are likely to provide us with a blueprint for protecting the lives and property of our constituents, while reducing the long-term cost to the taxpayer of emergency response programs.

During the Trump Administration, despite years of progress and millions of dollars already spent, the study was defunded and suspended indefinitely. More recently, we were pleased to

see the study included in President Biden’s funding request for Fiscal Year 2022, and we appreciate this Administration’s support.

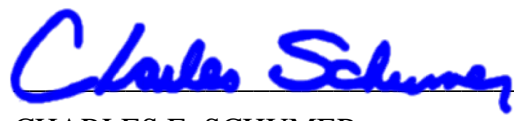
The Disaster Supplemental, which passed both chambers of Congress and became law late last month, provides \$28.6 billion in disaster relief funding, including \$100 million for “high-priority studies of projects in States with a major disaster declared due to Hurricane Ida pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in fiscal year 2021.” The New York/New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study is a high priority for the many communities in New York and New Jersey that would dramatically benefit from the coastal storm risk management measures that the study is evaluating. The remaining balance of funding is \$9,624,000 to complete the study at its currently approved total cost. Moreover, by allocating the total remaining cost of the study now, the Army Corps could ensure that this critical project is not further delayed due to future funding gaps.

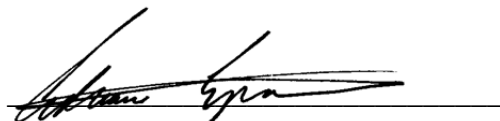
Therefore, we respectfully request that you provide full funding for the New York/New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study in your plan for the Disaster Supplemental.


Thank you for your full and fair consideration.


Sincerely,


HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress

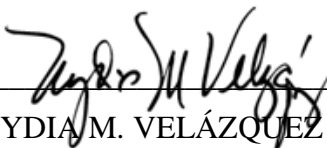

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator

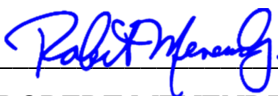

ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress

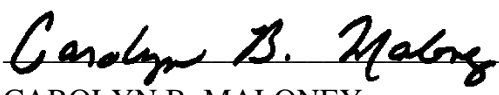

CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

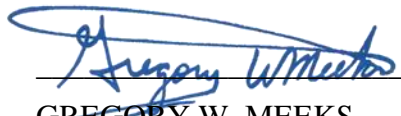

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator


NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress

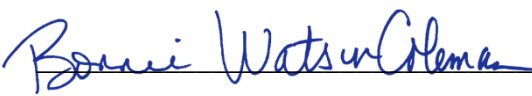

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United States Senator



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
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Member of Congress

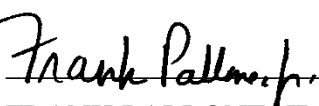

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