

DANNY K. DAVIS
7TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

CHAIRMAN:
WORKER AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SUBCOMMITTEE:
TRADE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 27, 2020

RE: Rep. Danny K. Davis: WRDA Testimony

Good Afternoon Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer brief testimony before the committee today. The Water Resources and Development Act funding is extremely critical; not only to my district in Chicago, the State of Illinois, but also the Great Lakes region.

As Congress contemplates the role of climate change, I am hopeful that we ensure the Great Lakes are at the center of the conversation. Researchers say climate change is indeed impacting the Great Lakes region.

The Lakes' shorelines are eroding as near record water levels have almost completely submerged two of the sandy beaches that line the Chicago's lakefront, altering ecosystems, and causing flooding and economic damage.

Lake Michigan water levels are up 6 feet since 2013. Because of this alone, I am also hopeful the Corps include the General Reevaluation Report (GRR) of the Chicago Shoreline Storm Reduction Project in any USACE and further implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

In addition, the Chicagoland area has had challenges with historic rain, snow and severe flooding. The nonprofit American Geophysical Union's report estimated that Illinois experienced more than 1,500 flood events from 2000 to 2018 – an average of 1.5 floods per week – resulting in \$3 billion in property damages. Additional resources are needed to combat these flood issues as flooding continues to have a negative economic impact on the area.

Finally, many government officials back home believe that the Corps Project Partnership Agreements are not favorable to non-federal sponsors and are hoping for better perpetual responsibilities and indemnification. They are also asking for a lower non-federal cost share model.

Again, thank you for allowing my testimony today and am free to answer and questions or concerns you may have.