



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**“Member Day Hearing: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure”**  
**Testimony of Congressman Andy Kim**  
**February 27, 2019**

Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I want to thank the Committee for the opportunity to participate in today’s Member Day hearing and to testify on behalf of New Jersey’s Third District. I’m happy to take today to highlight some of the important impacts that WRDA authorized projects have on the health of my district’s water infrastructure.

Being susceptible to frequent flooding and other water management issues, the Army Corps of Engineers’ projects in my district are critical to reducing the risk that flooding poses to Burlington and Ocean Counties. The Delaware River Dredged Material Utilization project explores innovative methods for managing sediment from the Delaware River in order to improve Burlington County’s flood risk. In Ocean County, the Manasquan Inlet to Barnegat Inlet Shore Protection project helped replenish storm damaged beaches and dunes to protect against coastal flooding. In addition to these projects, the Army Corps has continued to study Coastal Storm Risk Management strategies along the New Jersey Back Bay to provide support to our coastal communities in improving our resilience to storms and flooding.

Nearly eight years after Super Storm Sandy, my district in New Jersey is still recovering. After that storm hit, Toms River alone saw \$2.25 billion in property damages, the highest out of any township in New Jersey. Just last year, severe flooding on the Rancocas Creek led to evacuations and a state of emergency declaration. It is a top priority of mine to ensure that the coastal communities in my district are prepared not just for the next superstorm, but also for the daily flooding that plagues houses along Barnegat Bay. The sediment management and storm risk projects run by the Army Corps are, and will continue to be, critical to the resilience of New Jersey’s coastal areas.

My district has also faced issues with our drinking water infrastructure, including threats from lead contamination and from PFAS chemicals. In Burlington County, the Bordentown Water Department has exceeded federal standards for lead in tap water four consecutive testing periods in a row. And just down the road, contamination from firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals used on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst have forced a number of families to rely on bottled water until improved filtration systems can be installed. We should continue to focus on investing in and improving our nation’s water infrastructure to help communities like mine, which are not alone in the struggle with clean drinking water.

As the Committee prepares a WRDA for 2020, I ask that they continue to support the key flood management programs that my district relies on for future storm preparedness. The Army Corps should continue to support projects that use natural infrastructure and nonstructural measures to mitigate flood damage while also protecting the health of marine and coastal ecosystems. I also ask that they work to improve threats to our drinking water infrastructure that have impacted my district in New Jersey. By maintaining this focus, we can ensure that sensitive environmental areas remain protected from development and degradation, and that we can continue to provide safe and clean drinking water to our communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I look forward to working with my colleagues to develop a strong WRDA that will help to advance our nation's water infrastructure.