



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Sam Graves
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Nick Christensen, Staff Director

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

October 31, 2025

The Honorable Adam Telle
Assistant Secretary of the Army
for Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lieutenant General William H. Graham Jr.
Chief of Engineers and Commanding
General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW, Attn: CECS-C
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Assistant Secretary Telle and LTG Graham:

We write in strong opposition to any plan by the Administration to unilaterally pause, defund, or cancel Congressionally authorized water resources development projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). On October 17, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced in a tweet that the Corps is pausing over \$11 billion in projects mainly in states that voted for President Biden. This Administration's comfort for halting projects approved by Congress is an aggressive power grab that should concern every American, and will increase project costs, threaten infrastructure jobs, and harm communities across the country.

The Corps is the federal government's lead water resource development and management agency, whose mission is to deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with non-federal interests, to secure the nation, to energize the economy, and to reduce disaster risk. For decades, on a nonpartisan basis, Congress has authorized the Corps to study, design, carry out, and maintain water-related infrastructure that is critical to the economic, environmental, and public health of our nation and communities.

Congress directs the Corps to carry out specific projects and studies for navigation, flood risk management, and aquatic ecosystem restoration efforts, as well as recreational opportunities, water supply and water conservation efforts, hydropower, and emergency response through biennial water resources development acts, or WRDAs. Since 2014, Congress has met its responsibility to address local water resources challenges by enacting a new, bipartisan WRDA every two years, regardless of which party has led the House or Senate during that time.

Adding partisan politics to the implementation of WRDAs will not help our economy, will not address the local water resources challenges facing our communities, and will only serve to

increase the costs of goods and services to everyday Americans, as well as threaten their health and safety.

Since the October 17th social media post of the OMB Director, we have been seeking additional information from your offices on the nature, scope, and consequences of his announced pause or cancellation of \$11 billion in Corps projects. According to emails received from or attributed to representatives of the Office of the Assistant Secretary, we have learned three things:

1. Projects have been unilaterally paused by this Administration, but information on any list of affected projects is not being made available to Congress, despite its Constitutional oversight responsibility.
2. This list of paused projects is “fluid” and may change over time.
3. Even after the current lapse in appropriations is resolved, the “Administration may consider taking further actions [to] limit, cancel, or reprioritize resources in a manner that is consistent with these reviews and with the Administration’s stated priorities.”

To help the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (the Committee) properly fulfill its Constitutional oversight responsibility for the Corps’ civil works authorities, as well as the implementation of enacted, bipartisan WRDAs, we request you provide the Committee with responses to the following questions:

1. Please provide the Committee with any list of authorized WRDA projects, studies, or authorities that have been, or are currently, under review, have been paused at any time (even if temporarily), or are contemplated by this administration for cancellation in relation to the OMB Director’s October 17th social media post.
2. Please provide a list of states¹ where authorized WRDA projects, studies, or authorities are under review or are being considered for pause or cancellation.
3. Please provide the status of the following WRDA projects, studies, and authorities specifically mentioned by an OMB spokesperson related to the October 17th social media post:
 - a. The replacement of the structurally deficient Bourne and Sagamore bridges over the Cape Cod Canal, constructed by the Corps pursuant to the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1927.
 - b. The navigational improvements and deepening of the Ports on New York-New Jersey, Long Beach, California, and Baltimore, Maryland, most recently authorized by section 8401 of WRDA2022 and section 1401 of WRDA2024.
 - c. The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline project, California, authorized by section 1401 of WRDA2016.

¹ According to a statement attributed to an OMB spokesperson, the states where “projects will be halted” are: California, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Rhode Island.

- d. The project for water and wastewater infrastructure in Queens, New York, authorized by 8375 of WRDA2022.
4. Please provide the Corps' assessment of any consequence from the pause or cancellation of any project, study, or authority related to the October 17th social media post, including consequences related to: increased project or study costs for the Corps and non-federal interests; delayed or foregone economic, life-safety, public health, environmental, or clean water benefits; supply chain impacts for impacted navigation projects and other impacts to the national, regional, and local economies; increased costs for goods and services to businesses and American families; and jobs lost or adversely affected.
5. Please assess any potential impacts on the Corps' ability to provide "adequate oversight of all the projects currently in the portfolio" that are attributed to the current lapse in appropriations (and the furlough of approximately 1,100 Corps employees pursuant to the Corps' shutdown guidance) and the same impacts that are attributed to 3,016 Corps employees who accepted an early buy-out through the administration's deferred resignation program.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than November 14, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan C. Seiger of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure at (202) 225-0060.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



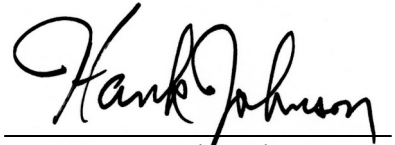
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



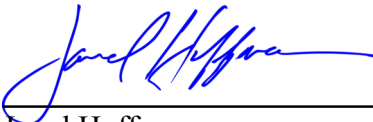
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



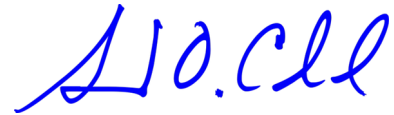
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



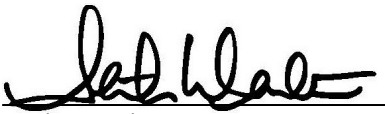
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



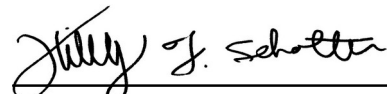
Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



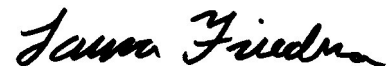
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress

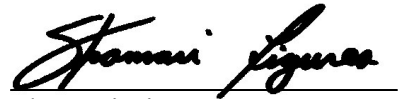


Laura Friedman
Member of Congress

The Honorable Adam Telle
LTG General William H. Graham Jr.
October 31, 2025
Page 6



Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

cc: Russell Vought, Director of the Office of Management and Budget