

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317
July 18, 2019

Major General Richard G. Kaiser
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Dear Major General Kaiser,

We write in support of the emergency dredging funding request from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District. Historic flooding throughout the Midwest this year has created an immediate need for emergency dredging to remove deposited sediment and bring our waterways back to authorized channel levels.

During the flooding, locks along the Upper Mississippi were closed for months, halting the movement of goods along the river. Although the river is now open, extensive emergency dredging is required to return the channel to authorized dimensions, including 25 critical areas facing imminent channel closure. As the region now looks to make up for lost shipping time, it is imperative that the dredging needs of our waterways are addressed to ensure navigability.

The Rock Island District has identified \$6.7 million in emergency dredging needs along the Upper Mississippi River, with an anticipated funding shortfall date of August 10, 2019. Meanwhile, the Illinois River, which feeds into the Mississippi and serves as a key connector for moving agricultural goods, faces an immediate shortfall of \$5 million in emergency dredging.

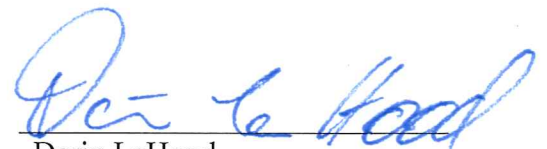
Congress authorized \$908 million in disaster funding for Operations and Maintenance activities, including emergency dredging, in H.R. 2157, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act (Pub.L. 116-20). As the Army Corps determines how to allocate this funding, we urge the swift approval of the Rock Island District's request for funding for emergency dredging on the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway.

We thank you for your expeditious consideration of this request.

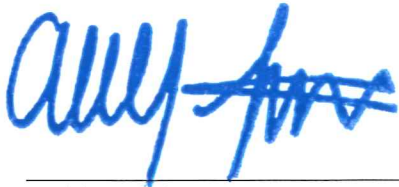
Sincerely,



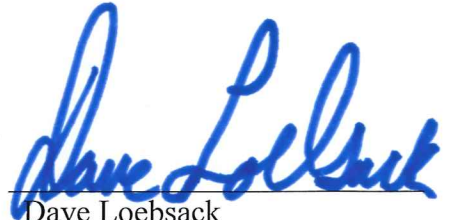
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



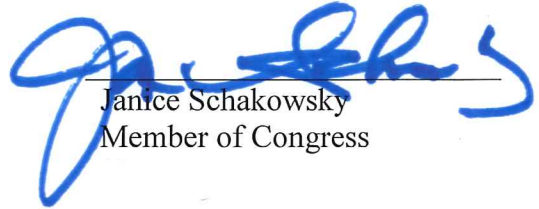
Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress



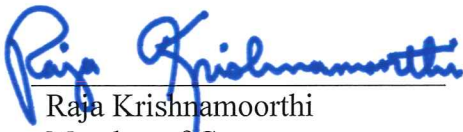
Dave Loebsack
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Mike Bost
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Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress



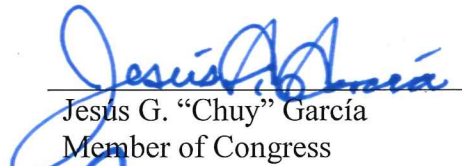
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



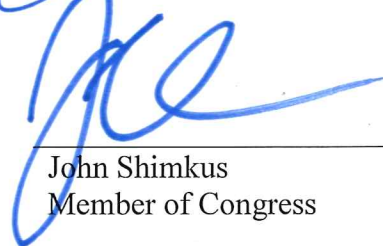
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress




John Shimkus
Member of Congress



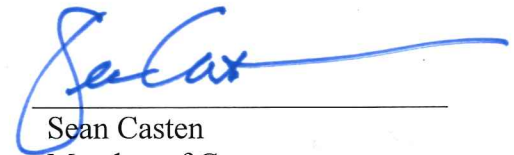
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



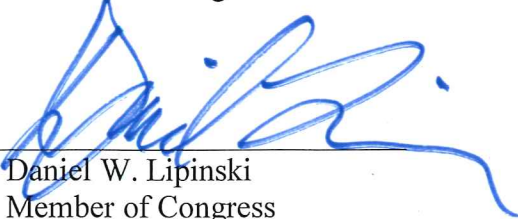
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress