

MEMBER  
JURISDICTIONS

May 19, 2016

CHESAPEAKE

Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation

FRANKLIN

RE: 2016 Water Resources Development Act

GLOUCESTER

Dear Members of the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation:

HAMPTON

Recurrent flooding is a major issue for Hampton Roads communities. Flooding caused by tides, heavy rainfall, and coastal storms causes significant impacts including damage to public and private property and lost economic productivity. In an interconnected region such as Hampton Roads, the physical and economic impacts of recurrent flooding are not constrained by jurisdictional boundaries. This makes it critical to pursue collaborative strategies between jurisdictions and levels of government. Many Hampton Roads localities are planning and constructing projects to mitigate the impacts of flooding, but additional federal support is needed.

ISLE OF WIGHT

JAMES CITY

In particular, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a major source of funding and expertise in designing and constructing mitigation projects. Corps feasibility studies play a critical role in helping communities identify projects. Typically, feasibility studies would only cover one city or county. In Hampton Roads, there is a need to address these issues through a multi-jurisdictional approach. To that end, we request that you consider including the following language in the 2016 Water Resources Development Act, which will authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct multi-jurisdictional feasibility studies:

NEWPORT NEWS

NORFOLK

*The Secretary of the Army is authorized to conduct studies of water resource needs of communities located within the Commonwealth of Virginia which are adjacent to bodies of water that are influenced by tidal action to determine the feasibility of carrying out projects for flood risk management, navigation, aquatic ecosystem restoration and other allied purposes due to increased coastal storm damage risk related to coastal storms and sea-level rise.*

POQUOSON

PORTSMOUTH

SMITHFIELD

Recurrent flooding is an issue that will take many years to address, but it is important to start the process for identifying and constructing projects with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as soon as possible. We thank you for your assistance and leadership and look forward to working with you to improve the resilience of communities throughout Hampton Roads and coastal Virginia.

SOUTHAMPTON

SUFFOLK

SURRY

VIRGINIA BEACH

WILLIAMSBURG

YORK

Sincerely,

Clyde A. Haulman  
Chairman

BJM/jc