



DAVID P. JOYCE
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
14TH DISTRICT OF OHIO

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

January 10, 2019

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary for the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear Assistant Secretary James and Lieutenant General Semonite,

I write to highlight the interests of Northeast Ohio as the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) finalizes its fiscal year (FY) 2020 work plan. Considering the enactment of Ohio's Senate Bill 1, which prohibits the disposal of dredged material in the open waters of Lake Erie by July 1, 2020, it is important that the Corps continues to meet the dredging needs of Northeast Ohio's harbors effectively and on time.

The Ashtabula Harbor is experiencing a historic level of watershed-wide fish and wildlife aquatic habitat losses. Dredged material in this harbor can be leveraged for aquatic ecosystem restoration. The Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 204 Project in Ashtabula plans to create a 16.5-acre fish and wildlife hemi-marsh habitat, able to handle roughly 336,000 cubic yards of dredged material over three cycles of dredging in the harbor. Construction related to this project will use Engineering With Nature (EWN) concepts to align natural and engineering processes to efficiently and sustainably deliver economic, environmental, and social benefits. The approach of the CAP Section 204 Project in Ashtabula will ensure compliance with Ohio's new law to eliminate open lake placement of dredged material. I ask that the FY 2020 work plan include the \$10 million required for this project to move through design and stay on track for proper dredge placement in FY 2021.

I'd also be grateful to see the Corps collaborate with harbor users, state agencies, and resource agencies to develop economically efficient, environmentally acceptable, and technically feasible Dredge Material Management Plans for Fairport and Conneaut harbors that maintain compliance with Ohio's new law. \$150,000 is needed for each harbor toward this end.

Support for these projects will ensure that the Corps can continue the tremendous work it has consistently done for Northeast Ohio through 2020 and beyond. I am thankful for the Corps' previous efforts in this area and appreciate your full and fair consideration of and attention to these priorities for 2020.

Sincerely,

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress