

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Darcy:

We are writing again regarding the Blanchard River Flood Risk Management Project (BRFRMP) and the importance of securing funding for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 to complete its feasibility study. This past August marked the six year anniversary of the devastating 100-year flood in Findlay and Ottawa, Ohio, that displaced residents and businesses and resulted in damages estimated at \$70 million. As you are aware, flooding within the region continues to be both a safety and economic issue that directly impact the City of Findlay, the Village of Ottawa and Putnam and Hancock Counties. We request your assistance in providing the BRFRMP the funding needed to expedite completion of the Chief's Report.

We applauded the Army Corps' efforts in July to reprogram funding for the project in fiscal year 2013. As you know, this funding will contribute to the Chief's Report, and more importantly will ensure that the BRFRMP is eligible for additional funding in the fiscal year 2014 Continuing Resolution.

While the funding received in fiscal year 2013 was critically important to the continuation of the feasibility study, significant additional resources are necessary for its completion. We urge you to provide the required funding in fiscal years 2014 and 2015. Specifically, we recognize that now that a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2014 has been enacted, the Army Corps will begin developing its work plan for the current fiscal year. To ensure the BRFRMP will be funded, it is imperative that the BRFRMP be included in the Army Corps work plan. Additionally, we understand that the Administration is beginning to develop the President's Budget Request for fiscal year 2015. USACE's advocacy for the inclusion of the BRFRMP in the President's Budget Request would ensure funding necessary to complete the feasibility study in fiscal year 2015.

We respectfully request that the BRFRMP be included in the Army Corps' fiscal year 2014 work plan, as well as in the Army Corps' fiscal year 2015 budget request submission.

Thank you again for all of your assistance in advancing this important project. We look forward to continuing to work together.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator



Rob Portman  
U.S. Senator



Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress