

BWC WRITTEN TESTIMONY
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Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
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Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Army Corps' civil works program covers a wide range of water resources activities that are essential to public health and safety. I appreciate the important work this subcommittee has done in ensuring adequate funding for the Army Corps programs in previous years, which has benefitted many of our communities and constituents.

In past years, groups like the Green Brook Flood Commission have used targeted federal investments under the civil works program to improve quality of life by expanding on water resource development activities like recreation and flood risk management. The civil works program has also allowed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to strengthen its relationship with our communities through its projects that have enhanced quality of life for thousands of people.

The Green Brook Flood Commission, which supports 13 different municipalities in my district, has already provided rejuvenation and relief to residents by completion of components of the Green Brook Sub Basin project through both structural and non-structural flood control programs. This project encompasses an area that has been ravaged by extreme flooding, which has caused extensive property damage and even the loss of life. Over the course of nearly 40 years, the US Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager for this project has worked to ameliorate the extreme flooding conditions through the construction of extensive levees, floodwalls, and pump stations.

In Fiscal Year 2016, the Army Corps' Civil Works program received approximately 6 billion dollars in funding. Providing the Corps with the sufficient funding for FY 2017 and 2018 is critical to keeping projects like this moving forward, especially knowing that certain projects like this one have previously languished due to a lack of funding.

Projects like this one also help build a stronger and safer America by constructing durable and sustainable infrastructure that prioritizes the protection of life and property. They also help modernize our communities and reduce the risk of damage from natural disasters while promoting job creation and environmental stewardship.

Again, I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for the opportunity to testify and hope that Congress will continue to support robust funding for such critical programs.