

**Energy and Water Subcommittee:
Member Day Testimony for May 3, 2021**

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this morning about the importance of the Army Corps of Engineers and the vital work it does for Michigan and the Great Lakes.

The president's budget proposes an annual budget cut of one billion dollars below what Congress appropriated last year for the Army Corps.

I hope the committee will reverse that cut and fund the Army Corps at or above last year's level.

The Army Corps plays a vital role in Michigan maintaining water levels on the Great Lakes and engineering navigable waterways that are crucial to shipping, manufacturing and the hardworking men and women who make things here in America.

The Soo Locks in the Upper Peninsula keep our country moving.

The iron ore and taconite that pass through the Locks is used in agriculture, steel, household products and a whole lot more.

Right now, there is only one lock that can be used by all the freighters on the Great Lakes to move iron ore from the upper Midwest to the other ports on the Great Lakes.

With the support of this committee and chairwoman Kaptur, who went to the Soo Locks with me in 2019, construction has begun on a new lock.

I urge the committee to support \$483 million in next year's budget for the continued construction of this new lock that will keep our country moving and support American manufacturing.

The Army Corps is also working on stopping invasive species in the Great Lakes.

The Brandon Road Lock and Dam project is necessary to prevent Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan and jeopardizing the health of the Great Lakes.

Asian carp would also harm the billions of dollars and thousands of jobs in the Midwest that rely on fishing, tourism, and boating on the Great Lakes.

I urge the committee to approve \$5 million for this project in the coming year.

Finally, I want to mention flooding that struck my hometown last year.

Two dams failed, causing destruction downstream to homes and businesses.

I hope the committee will approve language I have submitted that urges the Corps of Engineers to participate in future flood mitigation efforts with state, local, and tribal governments, as well as business and non-profits within the Tittabawassee River Watershed.

This will help prevent future disaster and help communities in my district as they plan for the future.

I hope this committee will continue to support investment in the Army Corps of Engineers and the infrastructure of our nation.

Thank you.