

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
OF**

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FOR CIVIL WORKS**

**BEFORE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

ON

**THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET
FOR THE CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM
OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

24 MAY 2021

Chairwoman Kaptur, Ranking Member Simpson and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today to discuss the President's Budget request for the Civil Works program of the Army Corps of Engineers.

As you know, the President's discretionary funding request for Fiscal Year 2022 was submitted to Congress last month. That request laid out the President's priorities for discretionary funding with recommendations across a wide range of Federal programs and policy areas, and outlined a strategy for reinvesting in the foundation of our country's resilience and strength.

The President's topline discretionary funding request for Fiscal Year 2022 includes \$6.8 billion for the Army Civil Works program to develop, manage, restore, and protect water resources primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study of water-related infrastructure projects, as well as to regulate development in waters of the United States, and to work with other Federal agencies to help communities respond to, and recover from, floods and other natural disasters. This funding request is the highest annual Budget ever requested for the Civil Works program. It supports significant investments to improve the condition of existing water infrastructure, including U.S. coastal ports, while incorporating climate resilience efforts into the commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration work of the Corps of Engineers. It will focus on investments that yield high economic and environmental returns; increasing resiliency to climate change; facilitating safe, reliable and sustainable commercial navigation; and accelerating and improving the delivery of water resources projects.

The Army will use these funds to invest in the construction of projects that will facilitate commercial navigation, reduce the risk of damages from floods and storms, and restore the Nation's aquatic ecosystems. It will invest in programs to help communities identify and address risks associated with climate change and improve the resilience of Corps infrastructure to climate change. The Army will also use these funds for significant investments to facilitate safe, reliable and environmentally sustainable commercial navigation at the Nation's coastal ports.

The details of the President's Budget, which will present a unified, comprehensive plan for America to address the overlapping challenges we face in a fiscally and economically responsible way, will be released this coming Thursday. I look forward to discussing the details for the Fiscal Year 2022 funding request for the Civil Works program of the Army Corps of Engineers soon thereafter.

I am very honored to have been selected for this position, to help implement the President's priorities for the Army Civil Works program. I have been on-board for just over a month. And, I've had the opportunity to make two short trips — one to Tacoma Harbor in Washington State, and another to multiple sites throughout West Virginia and northern Ohio, including Cleveland and Toledo. I have been very impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the Corps of Engineers employees, who build and maintain water resources facilities for our primary Civil Works missions. There is much work to be done, I'm excited to be a part of this great team — serving our Nation.

Thank you all for inviting me here today. I look forward to your questions.