

**Congressman Bill Foster (IL-11)**  
**Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) Member Day Testimony**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

- Good morning, and thank you, Chairwoman Napolitano and Ranking Member Rouzer for holding this Members' Day Hearing, and to the Members of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment for allowing me to testify here today.
- I am here this morning:
  - To urge full federal funding for the remaining design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project in my district.
  - And to request that Will County be included under the United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 219, Environmental Infrastructure authorization.
  
- The Brandon Road Lock and Dam, located along the Des Plaines River in Joliet, Illinois, serves as the last line of defense to prevent the spread of Asian Carp and other aquatic invasive species from reaching Lake Michigan and all the tributaries and lakes in the Great Lakes basin.
- Asian Carp was first introduced in Arkansas and has traveled up the Mississippi River. If the species reaches the Great Lakes, it could create an environmental and economic catastrophe.
- That's why supporting the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project has always been one of my most important priorities.
- I commend the Federal Government's recognition of the importance of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project through past legislative and agency actions.
- Most recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that they allocated 225 million dollars to move forward on this project.
- Thanks to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Army Corps of Engineers finally has the resources it needs to finish planning and begin construction on this critical project that will help protect Illinois waterways and the rivers and lakes that define the Great Lakes region.
- Illinois and the Great Lake states did not create this Asian Carp problem, so we should not be forced to bear the cost of protecting the entire Great Lakes region.
- Therefore, we request full federal funding for Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project in the 2022 Water Resources Reform and Development Act.
  
- I would also like to draw your attention to another project that requires funding in my district – the inclusion of Will County in the Environmental Infrastructure Authorization.
- I strongly support their request because it will enable them to expand and support water treatment, water supply, sewer, stormwater, storage treatment, and distribution projects in the district.
- Will County is one of the fastest-growing jurisdictions in Illinois and home to the largest inland port in North America.
- The County is rapidly diversifying and growing, but the population and economic growth have strained both local infrastructure and resources.

- In recent years, the area has experienced an increase in flooding incidents along both the Kankakee and DuPage rivers and a dramatic increase in both rain and snowfall, straining current water and sewer infrastructure.
- Funding these projects will improve the quality of life for residents in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the County, enhance the quality of treatment of water and stormwater drainage, and address public safety concerns.
- Working with my colleagues, I urge your strong consideration of our request for Will County.
- Thank you again, and I yield back the balance of my time.