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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
Written Testimony for Members' Day Hearing
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Chair Napolitano, Ranking Member Rouzer, Chair DeFazio, and Ranking Member Graves, and other members of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony as you work on developing the 2022 iteration of the Water Resources Development Act.

Water resources are the lifeblood of the city of Chicago and the 1st Congressional District of Illinois. Entire communities and economies in northeast Illinois depend upon the Great Lakes and the other water resources that bless our state. Thus, changes made to the Water Resources Development Act are of particular interest to my constituents, and I urge you to make sure that the bill your Committee develops adequately protects and fosters the resources my community depends upon.

However, the health of Lake Michigan, the Chicago River and Mississippi Rivers, and the broader Great Lakes are absolutely vital not just to the city of Chicago, but to the entire nation. Local governments cannot have the burden of protecting these resources placed solely upon them — they need appropriate federal support to protect these national treasures.

As such, as the Subcommittee considers priorities for WRDA reauthorization, I ask that you keep the following priorities in mind which are important to my district, the city of Chicago, and the State of Illinois, and which will also help the nation as a whole:

- Supporting the use of a Locally Preferred Plan for the City of Chicago's work at Morgan Shoal on the Chicago Shoreline project;
- Finding a way to support the Village of Dixmoor, Illinois with a new environmental infrastructure authorization to help its ailing water system;
- Fully funding the Brandon Road Lock and Dam;
- Authorizing environmental infrastructure to aid Will County, Illinois' water system;
- Introducing a federal cost-share for revetment maintenance;

- Reforming the Army Corps' project partnership agreements;
- Modifying the way that zoning impacts the Army Corps values land transfers;
- Waiving cost-share requirements for small "continuing authorities" projects;
- Allowing the Corps more flexibility in responding to site-specific issues and local context such as using asphalt rather than concrete for Chicago Shoreline projects;
- Adding more flexibility for non-federal sponsors in restrictions on ecosystem restoration projects; and
- Allowing maintenance activities in the first five years of a project's lifespan to count towards the local sponsor's cost-share.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony on our nation's water infrastructure priorities as a part of this special Member Day hearing. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these important issues.

If you have any questions about any of my priorities, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff. Thank you for your consideration.