

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2024

Michael L. Connor  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310

Shalanda Young  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> St, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor and Director Young:

We are writing in support of a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) of the American Bottoms area of St. Clair and Madison Counties, Illinois, to evaluate approaches to address chronic flooding issues in these communities. To ensure the report moves forward, we request the inclusion of \$400,000 in the Army Corps' Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Work Plan for the GRR.

The American Bottoms Comprehensive Plan was authorized by the *Flood Control Act of 1965* (P.L. 89-298) to address flooding in East St. Louis and surrounding areas. However, the 14 authorized flood control features were never implemented due to low cost-benefit ratios, and the authorized construction project remains incomplete.

For decades, communities in this area have experienced frequent flooding and resulting sewage overflows. Recent flooding has spurred coordination between the State of Illinois, local government entities, and the Army Corps of Engineers to initiate a GRR that will review flood risk reduction measures. This would include structural, non-structural, and nature-based approaches to recurring flood risk challenges in the American Bottoms area of St. Clair and Madison Counties.

The State of Illinois, through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, has agreed to serve as the project's non-federal sponsor. Governor JB Pritzker's Fiscal Year 2025 budget proposal includes \$1.5 million for the State's cost-share.

Given the continued flooding concerns for these communities and the commitment from the state of Illinois, we urge you to include \$400,000 in the Army Corps' FY 2024 Work Plan for a GRR in the American Bottoms area of St. Clair and Madison Counties.

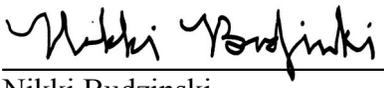
Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki Budzinski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress