

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2019

The Honorable R. D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington DC 20310

Lieutenant General Todd Semonite
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington DC 20314

Dear Assistant Secretary James and Lt. General Semonite,

We write urging that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) take all appropriate measures to complete the Tulsa West Tulsa Levee System Feasibility Study before the end of this calendar year to ensure necessary upgrades to the system can be included in the President's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request to Congress early next year. Further, we urge the immediate implementation of the critical improvements to the levee system upon the conclusion of the study.

The recent, devastating flooding along the Arkansas River made clear how dependent much of Tulsa County's critical infrastructure is on a 75 year old levee system. Moreover, this most recent flood event lasted more than seven days, putting incredible strain on the aging levee system. More than ten years ago, the U.S. Army Corps rated the Tulsa West Tulsa levees as "unacceptable", making clear the need and urgency for modernization and upgrades. Without improvement, it is unclear how much longer the levee system can continue to provide critical protection to the Tulsa County community.

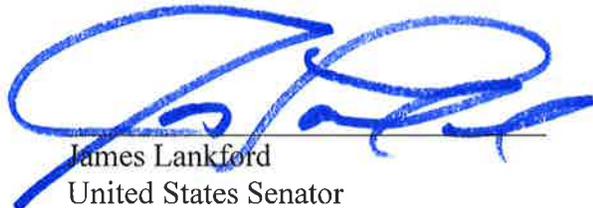
The ongoing Feasibility Study must be completed so structural improvements to the system critical to reducing the risk of failure during future flood events can be completed. The improvements should utilize current, state-of-art techniques wherever feasible to minimize future risks to life and property and to reduce future maintenance requirements associated with older techniques utilized in the existing levees.

The Tulsa West Tulsa Levee System protects thousands of Oklahomans and more than \$2 billion in public and private infrastructure. Finalizing the Feasibility Study before the end of this calendar year would enable the necessary upgrades to be included in next year's budget process—ensuring the levee system can continue to protect Oklahomans for another 75 years.

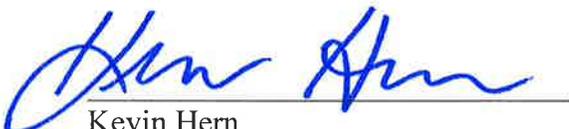
Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress