



CITY OF FORT WAYNE

THOMAS C. HENRY, MAYOR

February 22, 2010

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar,

On behalf of the City of Fort Wayne, I request your support for an appropriation of \$325,000 through the fiscal year 2011 Energy and Water Appropriations Act for the Greenwood Avenue Toe Drain. Funds will be used to address interior drainage issues and the gate closure at the Greenwood Avenue Toe Drain System, Fort Wayne, IN.

As authorized in Water Resources Development Act of 1990, P.L. 101-640, the US Army Corps of Engineers undertook a flood control project along the St. Mary's, St. Joseph and Maumee Rivers in Fort Wayne, IN. By building flood walls and installing flood mitigation devices, the Corps's efforts have thus far been successful in reducing flooding for 4,000+ homes and businesses.

However, one element of the project was not sufficiently designed and addressed. The flood wall along the St. Mary's River was built on sandy soil. This unstable base strains and pressures the wall, particularly during significant precipitation events and high groundwater, necessitating underground lines to drain the water. These lines end in a toe drain, which pumps the water out. At Greenwood Avenue, just north of Swinney Park and in the middle of an urban neighborhood, the toe drain is not sufficiently draining water back to the river. Set in a low point along the flood wall, the existing pump appears to be over capacity, with water coming in faster than it can pump it out—the pump hour-meter shows that it runs significantly more than other stations. Moreover, the closure, originally designed as a stoplog closure but later changed to a swing gate, appears to be less than water-tight.

Senator, this site has been a problem since the beginning of its operation. It affects approximately 200 homes in its surrounding area and leaves them vulnerable to flooding. In all, a 5,000+ lineal feet area of a \$50 million flood control project is not succeeding as planned because of the toe drain system. This project would address the drainage issues and correct the system, and as such, I respectfully seek your support for this initiative. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Henry
Mayor

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