

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 22, 2012

Major General Michael J. Walsh  
Deputy Commanding General,  
Civil and Emergency Operations  
Headquarters  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear General Walsh:

We are writing to thank you for your continued attention to the Blanchard River Flood Reduction Project (BRFRP), and for your efforts to complete the project's feasibility study in a timely fashion. This project is crucial for the region's future economic viability and we ask that you continue to prioritize the completion of the feasibility study and the delivery of the Chief's Report to Congress.

The City of Findlay and the Village of Ottawa experienced their most significant flood event in nearly 100 years after heavy rains hit the area in August 2007. The August 2007 flood, in addition to significant floods before and since, underscore the critical need for a permanent flood control solution on the Blanchard River.

Since 2007, the City of Findlay and the Village of Ottawa, along with private sector and community partners, have worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District to permanently address the communities' flood reduction challenges. In fact, to assist in funding a solution, the local community passed a sales tax and income tax assessment. To date, these sources have generated approximately \$6.2 million to support flood mitigation activities.

As you may be aware, the BRFRP is fully funded for fiscal year 2012 and recently had its Feasibility Scoping Meeting at the Corps' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division office, and is poised to make significant progress on the Alternative Formulation Briefing. Looking ahead to 2013, the local stakeholders' goal, and ours, is a Chief's Report, a prerequisite for the construction of a permanent flood mitigation project.

We were encouraged to learn you are leading the Civil Works Transformation Initiative to make the Corps' feasibility study process more practical and responsive through a new "3 x 3 x 3" revised planning process. Further, we understand that the Buffalo District and Great Lakes and Ohio River Division have indicated that they will apply the 3 x 3 x 3 process to the BRFRP. Local stakeholders are excited about this opportunity, and are hopeful it will result in an accelerated schedule for the Chief's Report, which is currently scheduled to be completed sometime in 2015.

We applaud your leadership of this important modernization effort, and look forward to working with you to ensure that the project is completed in a timely manner. If we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



Rob Portman  
United States Senator