

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2020

Administrator Peter Gaynor
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

Thank you for your work on disaster relief and mitigation throughout the nation, and in particular your work to assist our home state of North Dakota. We write in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) recent accreditation recommendation for the Williston Levee, located in Williston, North Dakota. Providing accreditation for the Williston Levee will help the Williston community manage floodplain activities as well as mitigate the effects of flooding. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

The Williston Levee safeguards low lying areas of the City Williston against backwater effects from Lake Sakakawea, the reservoir for the Garrison Dam. After the City of Williston learned that the Williston Levee would no longer be accounted for by FEMA's flood map, the City of Williston took steps to work towards accreditation. On June 18, 2020, the USACE completed a risk assessment for the Williston Levee and recommended accreditation. In the wake of the Corps' recent recommendation, it is my understanding that your agency will now review the recommendation to ensure the Williston Levee is included in FEMA's next flood map.

As you know, FEMA mapping is designed to provide accurate, up-to-date flood hazard and risk information to the community living and working within the levee system. This mapping information enables communities, like Williston, to provide protection and mitigate losses due to flooding. Including the Williston Levee in FEMA's flood map accounting is critically important to Williston residents and property owners, and we urge your agency to swiftly approve accreditation for the Williston Levee so that it is included in the next flood map.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



JOHN HOEVEN
U.S. Senator



KEVIN CRAMER
U.S. Senator



KELLY ARMSTRONG
U.S. Congressman