

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

We write to express strong support for the loan application submitted by the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Diversion Authority to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan program. The Authority seeks \$500 million to assist with the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Management Project, which is vital to providing permanent flood protection to a community that spans both North Dakota and Minnesota.

The Red River in the Fargo-Moorhead area has exceeded flood stage in 49 of the past 110 years. The project will provide protection for the lives, livelihood and property of 170,000 North Dakotans – approximately one-fifth of the state's total population. When completed, the project will protect more than 50 K-12 school buildings, several major medical facilities that form the region's health care hub, and the campus of North Dakota State University. Without this project, significant flooding would cripple Cass County.

The project includes three main components: in-town flood protection, a diversion channel, and the Southern Embankment that consists of flood control structures and areas for temporarily staging floodwaters. To do this, the project employs the nation's first (and still only) public-private partnership within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Authority would greatly benefit from incorporating the WIFIA loan program to the project's overall finance plan, which would further enhance the project's value.

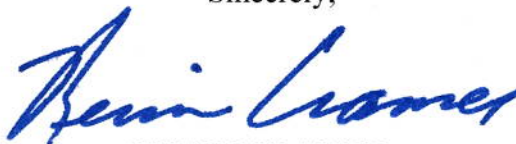
The Authority has the ability to levy special assessments to fund its share of the project, but the Authority hopes to avoid doing so. Cass County citizens have made multiple sacrifices to ensure the project comes to fruition, including voting to raise local sales taxes for the project. An invitation to apply for a WIFIA loan would help ensure Cass County citizens would not have to tax themselves again.

We hope you will give all due consideration to this request, consistent with all relevant rules, laws and regulations. Please reach out to us with any questions regarding both the Authority and project itself. Thank you for your attention to this letter and the Authority's WIFIA application.

Sincerely,



JOHN HOEVEN
U.S. Senator



KEVIN CRAMER
U.S. Senator



KELLY ARMSTRONG
U.S. Congressman