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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 2018

COMMITTEES:
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The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary (Civil Works)
United States Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lieutenant General Todd Semonite
Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Assistant Secretary James and Lieutenant General Semonite:

I appreciate your statements of support for the public-private partnership approach to flood protection in the Fargo-Moorhead area during the recent Energy and Water appropriations hearing. I hope that your support can be reflected in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 work plan.

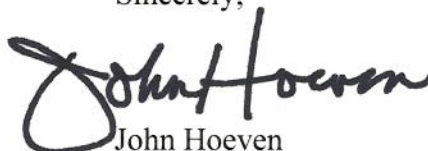
As you know, the project to provide permanent flood protection for the Red River Valley involves costs borne by both state and local governments. The public-private partnership approach will cut the remaining federal share in half, delivering the project on an accelerated time line, and reducing costs to the federal government while providing flood protection faster than would be possible using a traditional project delivery model.

The FY16 workplan included an initial investment of \$5 million to begin the project's construction phase. The project subsequently received \$20 million in the FY17 work plan. For FY18, the project can accommodate \$35 million in federal construction funding, alongside significant investments from the other project partners.

Finally, I note that the project is eligible for funding under recently-passed supplemental appropriations legislation. Funds from this bill would provide the Corps with financial flexibility to accelerate construction when legal issues related to the project are resolved, and I would like to discuss with you at your earliest convenience how supplemental funding can ensure permanent flood protection for the Red River Valley arrives on time and on budget.

Thank you again for your continued attention to this project. As we have discussed, the project represents an opportunity for the Corps to demonstrate the potential of public-private partnerships to reduce project costs and accelerate project benefits not only in the Fargo-Moorhead area, but across the country. I hope that you can include \$35 million for Red River Valley flood protection in the FY18 workplan, and that you will work with me on additional supplemental funding for this important project.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator