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July 12, 2017

The Honorable Doug Lamont
Acting Assistant Secretary
United States Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Mr. Lamont:

I am writing to request your assistance in advancing Section 408 Reviews for vital infrastructure projects in North Dakota, including flood protection. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

While much of my state faces drought this summer, we know that flooding remains a threat that can arise suddenly each year. In order to secure the safety of lives and property across North Dakota, we must advance comprehensive flood protection projects in as timely of a fashion as possible. However, it has recently come to my attention that all Section 408 reviews have been put on hold by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the remainder of this Fiscal Year. This directly impacts flood protection efforts in Cass County and Minot, delaying the construction of critical flood control infrastructure and potentially pushing any progress into next year due to our short construction season.

Such delays not only increase the cost of these projects for taxpayers, but they prolong the risks faced by these communities. In addition, there are several other projects across the state important to the well-being and quality of life of our residents, such as water treatment and bridges. Accordingly, I ask that you work to advance the pending reviews in North Dakota, either by reprogramming funding within the Corps' budget this year to work through the backlog of Section 408 reviews or by prioritizing the reviews in states like mine that will face prolonged delays due to seasonal conditions.

Again, thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you to move this much-needed infrastructure forward. Please direct any correspondence regarding this issue to my Washington, D.C., office.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator

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