

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

March 4, 2015

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

I am writing to request an update on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Baltimore District's work with Somerset County, Maryland on Superstorm Sandy projects.

The Somerset County Commissioners committed U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding as the local match to the Corps' three Baltimore District projects: Crisfield Tidal Dike; Rhodes Point Jetty; and Great Point Restoration. These projects will protect Crisfield, lower Somerset County, and Smith Island from future storms and erosion.

I share the Commissioners' concern that the Baltimore District's management of these projects may soon jeopardize the likelihood of their completion. The HUD funding must be obligated by August 2017.

In addition, the Commissioners and I were disappointed funding for these projects was not included in the President's Fiscal Year 2016 budget request to Congress. As you are well aware, the Congressional ban on designated funding prohibits me from adding these projects to the upcoming budget.

I therefore request a detailed plan on how the Baltimore District will execute these projects to meet the looming deadline. Further, if this deadline cannot be met, I would appreciate your providing alternative solutions to accomplishing the needs of these projects. Finally, if these projects are not going to move forward at all, I request that you inform the Commissioners immediately so they may redirect these valuable HUD dollars.

Thank you for your prompt response to my request.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator