

ANGIE CRAIG  
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
AVIATION  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2302**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
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RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE, TRADE  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
INVESTIGATIONS, OVERSIGHT AND REGULATIONS

January 15, 2020

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) R.D James  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

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

Dear Lieutenant General Semonite and Assistant Secretary James,

Thank you for testifying before the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee recently to inform the development of a new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

I appreciated the opportunity to ask you more about Army Corps operations in Minnesota and in particular, the Minnesota River Project. As we discussed, project has traditionally received a very small appropriation – around \$260,000 – in recent fiscal years to conduct important maintenance dredging activities within the channel and near Savage.

The Minnesota River is a major agricultural tributary that transports approximately one-fourth of the 16 million tons annually shipped in and out of the state of Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has indicated that this has an annual economic value in excess of \$362 million.

Unfortunately, the funding for the project was not included in the Army Corps FY20 Budget, and no money was appropriated in the recent spending package enacted by Congress. As you develop your next work plan, I strongly encourage you to reinstate this funding and provide the maximum amount possible in order to help serve the users of the river.

Additionally, as we also discussed, it appears that more formal delineation of which operation and maintenance account this dredging should occur within may be necessary. Further clarity from the Army Corps on this matter as you committed to is appreciated, as I do intend to continue further examination of incorporating Minnesota River channel maintenance in the authorization for the Mississippi River project in WRDA 2020.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for following up with additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angie Craig", written in a cursive style.

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District