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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

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December 6, 2016

Senator Joni K. Ernst
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

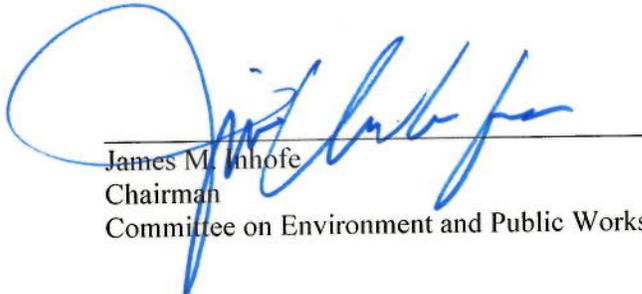
Dear Senator Ernst:

I would like to thank you for your provision to S. 2848, the Senate Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, regarding a study on the Army Corps of Engineers methodology and performance metrics. As you are well aware, Ranking Member Boxer and I were happy to accept this provision in S. 2848, as we believed it was a thoughtful approach that would formally start the much-needed discussion on the Corps' current methodologies and at the same time, potentially identify other criteria that could be used to provide greater construction project completion results for small and rural geographic areas.

As you know, it was a bicameral, bipartisan decision to remove all nine Government Accountability Office (GAO) studies from the final conferenced bill text and instead compose a formal letter requesting to GAO that these studies be completed. This letter would be signed by myself, Ranking Member Boxer, Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio. As you know, requesting these studies in a formal letter has the same effect as if the provisions were included in law. As such, I would like to assure you that this issue of whether the value of property is the best measurement when calculating the value of flood risk management projects will be looked at closely by GAO.

As Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue and thank you for wanting to work towards a solution to the ongoing concerns with current Corps methodologies used to evaluate the benefit of construction projects across the heartland of America.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works