

DANIEL LIPINSKI  
3RD DISTRICT, ILLINOIS  
www.lipinski.house.gov

2346 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1303  
(202) 225-5701  
(202) 225-1012 FAX  
TOLL FREE FROM IL (866) 822-5701

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1303

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary for Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon  
Room 3E446  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Darcy:

I write to you today to express my strong support for the Bubbly Creek restoration project at the South Fork of the South Chicago River and to urge the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) not to cancel this important community and environmental project. Instead, I strongly urge the USACE to work proactively to ensure that this project proceeds in an expeditious and environmentally sound manner.

As you know, the Bubbly Creek restoration project has been ongoing for ten years and its completion would provide significant economic and environmental benefits in a historically polluted area that is undergoing a period of economic and ecologic revitalization. Bubbly Creek is currently unable to support healthy plant and animal communities, as well as full use by the adjoining community. The restoration project would remedy these issues by restoring the riverine ecosystem to provide a critical habitat for migratory waterfowl and wetland fishes, including two threatened species. This project is strongly supported by my constituents and I worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to secure over \$900,000 in the Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 Energy & Water Appropriations bills to move this effort forward. Accordingly, I am concerned by the recent decision by the USACE to halt this project after the discovery of contaminated sediment from the adjacent former manufactured gas facilities. I believe that this is a short-sighted and unnecessary decision and I encourage you to reconsider it.

There are numerous legal avenues that could be used to mitigate liability and there is the possibility of working in tandem with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that the adjacent sites are cleaned-up while continuing work on the Bubbly Creek restoration. Moreover, numerous stakeholders have expressed a willingness to cooperate with you and such assistance should not be ignored, especially for a project as important as this.

This project is a priority for my district and I urge the USACE to work with the EPA and other entities to find the necessary solutions to solve this temporary problem. There has been considerable progress in the last decade and I look forward to working with you to keep this project on track. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



DAN LIPINSKI  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Gina McCarthy

6245 SOUTH ARCHER AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60638  
(312) 886-0481  
(773) 767-9395 FAX

5309 WEST 95TH STREET  
OAK LAWN, IL 60453  
(708) 424-0853  
(708) 424-1855 FAX

222 EAST 9TH STREET #109  
LOCKPORT, IL 60441  
(815) 838-1990  
(815) 838-1993 FAX

14700 SOUTH RAVINIA AVENUE  
ORLAND PARK, IL 60462  
(708) 403-4379  
(708) 403-5963 FAX