

LEONARD LANCE
SEVENTH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH

COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 31, 2012

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Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army — Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

As you begin your work in crafting the Fiscal Year 2014 budget request for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) I strongly encourage the inclusion of adequate funding for the Millstone River Basin Study and the Rahway River Basin Study in north-central New Jersey.

While the USACE has been working on these studies for some time, I am asking that you prioritize the studies in the wake of damage sustained in New Jersey in towns such as Manville, Cranford and Springfield as a result of Hurricane Irene in 2011. Fully funding the Rahway River Basin Study and Millstone River Basin Study will allow long-term flood mitigation plans to be developed.

According to USACE officials \$1.75 million is needed to complete the \$6.4 million Rahway River Basin Study and \$2 million is needed to complete the \$6.8 million Millstone River Basin study. Flooding has long been a problem for these communities. For example, Cranford's low-lying residential and commercial structures frequently experience flash flooding caused by intense thunderstorms, nor'easters and hurricanes.

In the wake of Hurricane Irene, public officials in the town of Manville and Cranford estimate public and private damage well over \$20 million. Thousands of homes and businesses were damaged and more than 2,000 residents were asked to evacuate. During the height of the storm, lives were at risk, homes caught on fire, roads were impassable. In Cranford, the town's 9-1-1 call center and emergency operations center was inoperable. Intense thunderstorms, nor'easters and hurricanes regularly create significant flooding in Central New Jersey — causing damage, posing threats to life and public safety, and costing U.S. taxpayers significantly.

Therefore, I respectfully request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to include funds for the Rahway River Basin Study and Millstone River Basin Study in the Corps Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request.

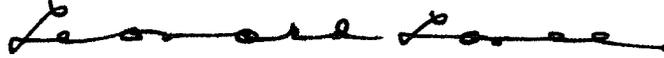
Additionally, I would like to re-extend a personal invitation for you to visit my congressional district and visit Cranford and Manville, New Jersey with me so that I may personally show you why Corps assistance is so desperately needed.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

I look forward to working with you to ensure these important studies receive the funding necessary so that long term plans can be made and in turn provide safety for my constituents in an efficient and expeditious manner.

Best personal wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Lance". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line through the middle of the letters.

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

CC: Jacob Lew, Director, United States Office of management and Budget
Major General Meredith "Bo" Temple, Acting Chief of Engineers, Army Corp of Engineers
Col. John Boule II, Commander, Army Corps of Engineers New York District