

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 9, 2018

The Honorable R. D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army – Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

As you prepare to allocate the \$10.425 billion in disaster supplemental construction funding for 2017 hurricane-impacted states provided by Congress, we strongly urge you to use the necessary portion of those funds to expedite and complete construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

Since 2001, the Army Corps of Engineers has invested more than \$870 million in projects designed to repair the dike and reduce the risk of flooding for the thousands of Floridians living around the lake. As you know, the dike remains listed as Dam Safety Action Classification I, meaning it is at imminent risk of failure and poses a serious threat to lives and property.

In the weeks after Hurricane Irma, Lake Okeechobee rose to nearly 17.3 feet, creating anxiety for residents and additional strain on Army Corps resources with the need to conduct daily inspections of the southern half of the dike and weekly inspections of the northern half. With the Army Corps' expedited construction plan, this new supplemental appropriation will enable you to meet the funding requirements needed to complete this critical public safety project by 2022. Therefore, as you begin to formulate a supplemental work plan, we urge you to allocate the full federal funding necessary for the expedited completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation project.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator