

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20314

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

It is our understanding that the City of Wilkes-Barre has submitted a request for a feasibility study of Solomon Creek located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. We write today to express our support for this application and to urge you to give full and fair consideration to this important emergency streambank and shoreline protection project.

The existing retaining walls for the Solomon Creek are in poor condition and precariously leaning in various locations. The Creek is situated in a residential area, flanked by homes, a school, a hospital, utilities for water, gas and sanitation, and a large storm sewer system. In addition, the sanitary line that runs parallel to the Creek provides valuable service to Wilkes-Barre and neighboring cities and townships. A collapsed wall would not only damage the sanitary line, it would shut down businesses and hinder households that depend on it. We have been informed that the walls of the Creek are one major storm away from a devastating collapse, which would cause the surrounding community to experience economic hardship due to flood damages, property destruction, and sanitary line service disruption.

A feasibility study is a crucial step toward comprehensively assessing the problem and ensuring the safety of the City of Wilkes-Barre and the surrounding community. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, we also respectfully request that you keep us informed of the status of this application. Finally if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact us or our staff.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Matt Cartwright  
United States Representative