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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

January 4, 2022

The Honorable Michael Connor  
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor:

I write in strong support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Tenakill Brook, Cresskill, NJ, Section 205 Project and request that it be fully funded in your plan for the Disaster Supplemental (Public Law No: 117-43) passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on September 30, 2021. I encourage the USACE will give full and fair consideration to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's request that USACE initiate a study to determine federal interest in a partnership to study flood risk reduction measures. I appreciate the hard work from the staff at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District office to assist my community in preparing against a future storm. As you know, the remnants of Hurricane Ida killed at least 30 people in New Jersey, making it the second-deadliest storm in our state's history. We have not seen such flooding since Superstorm Sandy.

The Disaster Supplemental provided \$28.6 billion in disaster relief funding, including \$100 million for "high-priority studies of projects in States with a major disaster declared due to Hurricane Ida pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in fiscal year 2021." The President approved a major disaster for the State of New Jersey (FEMA-4614-DR) on September 5, 2021 pursuant to the Stafford Act that included Cresskill in Bergen County.

As Mayor Romeo stated to the NJDEP following the hurricane, "Cresskill was devastated by flooding from Tropical Storm Ida." The heavy fall caused Tenakill Brook to be clogged with sediment and debris that inflicted over \$20 million in damage to the local middle and high school. The school has been closed all school year, affecting students who had been learning virtually due to the pandemic and were excited to return to classrooms full time. The NJDEP's letter to USACE recognizes that the "damages and needed flood risk reduction measures are above and beyond the capability of the local government." I strongly encourage the USACE provide any assistance possible to design a technically feasible, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable project to improve the resiliency of Cresskill against future storms.

Therefore, as requested by the NJDEP, I urge the USACE work with NJDEP and Cresskill to ensure my constituents can rebuild and be protected against the next major storm. Thank you very much for your attention to my request. I stand ready to work with you, the State and local community. Please do not hesitate to aid our neighbors to expedite our recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Pascrell Jr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "Jr".

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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress