

SHARICE DAVIDS

3RD DISTRICT, KANSAS

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States

**House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

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July 9, 2021

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2022 Energy and Water bill, I respectfully request that you consider the following Community Project funding request:

1. Upper Turkey Creek, KS – \$43,000,000 – City of Merriam, KS – Negotiate and execute the design agreement as listed in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers UTC Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study. Initiate design and analyses including geotechnical analysis and soil testing in the planning phase. Includes recommendations for a levee and flood wall system to protect lives and property in Merriam, KS. The primary plan features are 3,380 feet of levee, up to approximately 6 feet in height, and 6,820 feet of floodwall up to approximately 6.5 feet in height. The removal of a significant portion of Downtown Merriam from the FEMA floodplain would allow for significant redevelopment of the properties in Downtown Merriam, which could significantly expand the number and types of permanent employment in this area.
2. Fairfax Jersey Creek Upper Unit Levee – \$4,000,000.00 - The Fairfax Drainage District, Kansas City, KS - The Fairfax Drainage District (FDD) owns and operates a levee system protecting some 120 businesses in a 2,000+ acre industrial park along the right bank of the Missouri River in Kansas City, Kansas. These businesses play a major role in the Kansas City region's economy they employ over 10,000 workers while supporting over over \$5 billion in investment. A critical and much needed component to the underseepage infrastructure was omitted when the Fairfax levee was constructed by the Federal Government in the 1940's. Specifically, the nearly 35,000 ft. of 10" to 15" perforated collector lines (embedded within the landside levee slope to collect and convey horizontal

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seepage flow through the levee during elevated river stages) lack access manholes for the FDD to carry out a very important maintenance function that of being able to inspect and maintain its aging seepage collector lines which would ensure and enhance the functionality and safety of the levee. The inability to inspect and maintain the collector lines due to the absence of access manholes also jeopardizes future levee certification, not just for the FDD, but also the adjoining Kaw Valley Drainage District (KVDD).

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests and for your continued leadership.

My warmest regards,



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress