

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2015

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

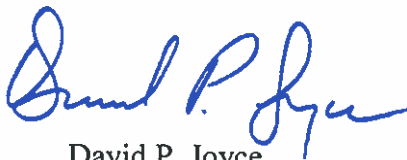
For the past several decades, dredged sediment from the Cuyahoga River and Cleveland Harbor has been placed in Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs) due to the toxins in the sediment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is currently refusing to dredge the sixth mile of the Cuyahoga River federal navigational channel unless a non-federal partner pays more than \$1.4 million for the disposal of 180,000 cubic yards of sediment dredged from the Cuyahoga River.

The USACE believes the sediment can be disposed into Lake Erie without causing environmental harm and has favored open-lake disposal, despite the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's assertion the sediment does not meet the environmental standards necessary for open-lake disposal. Congress appropriated enough funds for the USACE to dredge and place the sediment in CDFs and we are incensed USACE is ignoring Congressional intent on this matter.

The Cleveland Port Authority has indicated additional CDF space is available for this year, for 2016, and potentially in the future, provided some modifications are made to the procedure for disposing the material into the CDF. Congress appropriated the USACE approximately \$7.6 million to dredge the Cuyahoga River and Cleveland Harbor as well as for sediment disposal in the CDF, and the highest bid was \$4 million. Therefore, the USACE has sufficient funding to dredge and dispose of the sediment in the CDF either mechanically or hydraulically.

The maintenance of the Cuyahoga River, Cleveland Harbor, and Lake Erie is critical to Lake Erie's ecosystem, the residents that depend on the Lake, and the economy of Northeast Ohio. This region also relies upon functioning intermodal maritime transportation for the movement of goods across the Great Lakes navigation system. Therefore, we request that you use your authority to ensure that the Cuyahoga River and Cleveland Harbor, including the sixth mile, are dredged and the sediment is placed into the CDF at full federal expense. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress