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February 6, 2020

Lieutenant General Todd Semonite
Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear Lt. General Semonite,

I urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to take all appropriate measures to review and complete the Chief's Report for the modernization of the Tulsa-West Tulsa Levee system as soon as practical. Timely consideration will ensure the authorization for the construction of this project can be included in any water resources legislation this year. Furthermore, I urge that the Corps include financing recommendations in the Chief's Report to allow a 30-year repayment eligibility.

More than 10 years ago, the Corps rated the Tulsa-West Tulsa levees as "unacceptable" and "very high risk" of failure due to overtopping and inadequately controlled under-seepage and through seepage—making clear the need and urgency for modernization and upgrades. Without structural improvements, it is unclear how much longer the levee system will be able to provide critical protection to the Tulsa County community.

Flooding last May and June made it clear how important it is to update the Tulsa-West Tulsa Levee system. Flood waters along the Tulsa-West Tulsa Levees remained high for 11 days, putting incredible strain on the 70-year old levee system. During this time, the Oklahoma National Guard was deployed at key points along the entire system filling and placing sand bags to strengthen and fortify the levees. Any catastrophic failure would have resulted in the flooding of the homes and businesses of thousands of Oklahomans, the Sand Springs Petrochemical Complex (a Superfund site), and major industrial sites including refineries and utility sites—more than \$2 billion in public and private infrastructure.

Finalizing the Chief's Report as soon as practical would ensure Congress can authorize the construction of the modernization of the Tulsa-West Tulsa Levee system this year.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senate