

DEBBIE DINGELL
12TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

116 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4071

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS
WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:

19855 WEST OUTER DRIVE
SUITE 103-E
DEARBORN, MI 48124
(313) 278-2936

301 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 400
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
(734) 481-1100

WEBSITE: DEBBIEDINGELL.HOUSE.GOV

June 28, 2021

Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Lieutenant General Spellmon:

Over the weekend, cities across the 12th Congressional District and Southeast Michigan experienced heavy rainfall from Ann Arbor to Dearborn and beyond that has led to severe flooding and massive power outages. This area has seen numerous serious flood events over the years, but this may be one of the worst. On behalf of my constituents, as well as our local and state officials responding to this emergency, this letter requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to immediately conduct an independent, third-party study of the Western Wayne and Washtenaw County communities plagued by these endless flooding events and provide specific resiliency recommendations to Congress, as well as our communities.

The flooding has disrupted the way to life for so many communities, as well resulted in serious damage that is still being fully assessed. We are now experiencing once-in-a-lifetime floods on almost a yearly or biennial basis. While the state and local governments work diligently with the federal government to provide immediate emergency services and determine the long-term assistance required, it is clear, we need a full understanding on the watershed, infrastructure, and other contributing factors in this area to once and for all mitigate future flooding disasters. We need a comprehensive study that will empower our local officials with the knowledge and expertise to ensure another flooding event of this kind doesn't happen again on our watch—and the looming threat from climate change make this even more urgent.

In the coming days and weeks ahead, I will be working closely with these communities to make similar requests to investigate this enduring issue. It is my understanding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has current authorities under the Flood Plain Management Services Program, as well as other possible authorities, to conduct a study of this kind and work with a local non-federal sponsor. For too long now homes, businesses, and cities across the region have been drowned in flood waters, had power knocked out, livelihoods upended, and major property damage.

We need a full understanding and recommendations by experts at the federal level on why this continues to happen so our Southeast Michigan communities can implement the proper long-term solutions to protect lives and property in the future. Thank you in advance for your urgent attention and consideration of this important request. I stand ready to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our state and local officials to see this request through and assist with any additional required authorizations or appropriations needed from Congress to complete this study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress