

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 15, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

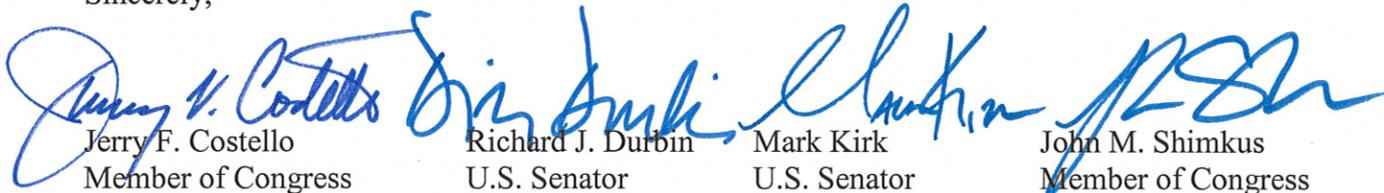
Dear President Obama:

We are writing to express our support for including levees and water infrastructure improvements in efforts to improve our nation's infrastructure. Your State of the Union address emphasized the importance of a dependable, modern and efficient transportation network for fostering economic growth now and in the future. We agree, and believe that repairing and improving the nation's levees must be a part of this process.

Protecting our communities from floods is a bipartisan issue, and we are working together in Illinois to address the substantial levee repair and maintenance needs our state faces. This is a nationwide problem, and the economic downturn has left states, local governments and levee districts in need of assistance in undertaking this work.

Hence, we believe a strong federal commitment to our levees should be an integral part of our infrastructure improvement efforts. We appreciate your attention to these issues, and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress

Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator

Mark Kirk
U.S. Senator

John M. Shimkus
Member of Congress