

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS,
RANKING MEMBER



Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
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July 30, 2018

Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Mr. Bryce W. Wisemiller, Project Manager
Programs and Project Management Division, Civil Works Programs Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 2151
New York, NY 10279

Dear Lt. General Semonite and Mr. Wisemiller:

I am writing to urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to extend the period of public comment on proposals to construct storm-surge barriers in New York Harbor from 30 days to 90, and to hold additional public meetings throughout the entire Hudson Valley.

It is clear to me that a project of this significance must be fully understood by all who would be affected. The opportunity for study and comment has been unnecessarily brief. While I understand that recent storms have prompted a call for urgent action, we must not rush into construction and permanent change to the nature of the river until we have public approval to proceed.

My constituents, and the millions more who live and work along these waters, have only in recent weeks learned about the proposals. Questions include potential dangers in each proposal, and the extent to which long-term environmental studies by well-regarded environmental groups have been taken into account. We must assure that the Corps and municipalities work together to stem the hazards of climate change and to manage public resources.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nita Lowey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress