

NORMAN SISISKY
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March 6, 1991

Mr. Thomas G. Underwood
Interim City Manager
City of Suffolk
Post Office Box 1858
Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Dear Mr. Underwood:

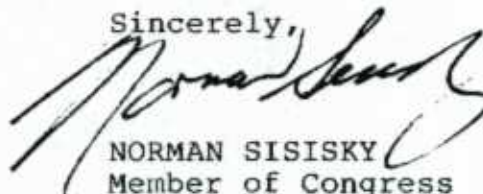
Thank you for contacting me regarding the proposed termination of the Bennett's Creek dredging project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In light of the importance of this project and the unusual circumstances surrounding it, I want you to know that I have joined with Senator John Warner in an effort to preserve funding for the Bennett's Creek dredging project. I have enclosed copies of our letters to Richard Darman, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, and G. Edward Dickey, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, concerning this matter.

As you will note, we have urged the Director and the Secretary to re-evaluate the proposed termination of this worthwhile project. It is our hope that by detailing in our letter the adverse effects of delaying further the Bennett's Creek project, we will persuade the Director and Secretary to allow this project to proceed. While we wait for a response from Director Darman and Secretary Dickey, you can be certain that I remain committed to having the creek dredged on schedule.

Again, I appreciate knowing of your concerns. Should you have any further comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, this letter is accompanied by my best wishes for you and the city of Suffolk.

Sincerely,



NORMAN SISISKY
Member of Congress

NS/ds
Enclosures

JOHN WARNER
VIRGINIA

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February 27, 1991

Dr. Edward Dickey
Acting Assistant Secretary of the
Army (Civil Works)
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Room 2E570
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Dr. Dickey:

It is with great concern that we bring to your attention the impact of the President's FY 1992 budget request for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 107 of the Continuing Authorities Program on a long-awaited project important to Suffolk, Virginia.

The President's request to phase out the Corps Continuing Authorities Program in FY 1992 would have a tremendous impact on the efforts of many communities to maintain small navigation channels that are critical to Virginia's finfish and shellfish industries.

Our specific concerns rest with the Corps directive to terminate all Section 107 projects in the planning and specifications phase based on the President's request to end funding for these projects in the FY 1992 budget. As you know, Congress has historically looked with favor on the Corps Continuing Authorities Program and we have every reason to expect that full funding will be provided next year.

This policy has particular impact on the Norfolk District's schedule to complete the plans and specifications for dredging Bennett's Creek in Suffolk this year and begin construction early 1992. It is critical that this schedule be maintained because the availability of the disposal site expires in the spring of 1992.

Since 1983, the Corps and the City of Suffolk have been working to restore the channel to a depth of 6 feet from the Nansemond River to the mouth of Bennett's Creek. The benefit to cost ratio of this project is 1.5 to 1.

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Dr. Edward Dickey
February 27, 1991
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A four-year delay in this project has occurred because of the difficulty in locating an environmentally acceptable disposal site. When the option of overboard disposal of the dredged spoil was eliminated, a land site of 15 acres was required. Other proposed upland locations were ruled out either because of the presence of wetlands, inadequate soil conditions or distance from the channel which reduced the project's economic viability.

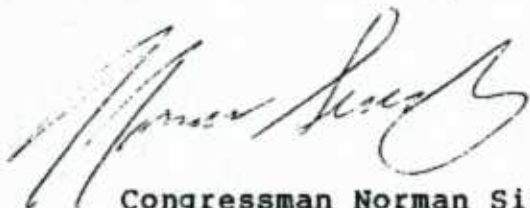
In addition to the one-time availability of the disposal site, it is necessary for construction to begin early next year because of the environmental restrictions which limit dredging between mid-March and June to avoid any damage to oyster beds.

NOTE The City of Suffolk is a significant partner in this project contributing \$158,000 in cash, and lands, easements, rights of way, relocation and disposal costs. The Federal share of this project is \$343,000.

We believe firmly that a loss of this disposal site seriously jeopardizes the construction of Bennett's Creek. Accordingly, we respectfully request your review of this project and that the necessary funds be released to complete the plans and specifications this year.

We look forward to discussing this project with you personally if further information is required.

With kind regards,



Congressman Norman Sisisky

Sincerely,



Senator John Warner

cc: Honorable Richard G. Darman

JW:al