



CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON | OFFICE OF CITY MAYOR  
Tom Mlada, Mayor

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January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
Department of the Army, Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Secretary Darcy and Lieutenant General Bostick:

As we move into the early part of a new year, I wanted to reach out to you personally to ask for your renewed support of our ongoing partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) here in our great City of Port Washington, Wisconsin. More specifically, we have been working very closely since 2014 on vital repair work of the federally-owned breakwaters here in our harbor, and I ask for your help and support so we can complete our collaborative efforts before the end of 2017.

We are immensely grateful for the partnership we've enjoyed with USACE staff on all levels. Whether it has been field office staff in Wisconsin led by Bob Stanick, regional office staff in Detroit led by Jim Tapp, or federal agency staff in Washington D.C. led by Yvonne Prettyman-Beck, I can assure you that the USACE has been represented by men and women of the highest order. Of course, this I am sure comes as no surprise to you. Nonetheless, I believe it to be important to share such perspective with leadership, as I have experienced their service, responsiveness, cooperation, and support personally. It is an impressive team!

And, working together with these USACE staff members, we've begun down the path of stabilizing the federal breakwaters protecting our harbor. **Our City of Port Washington leadership team has been able to leverage the initial federal appropriation in early 2014 of \$950,000 to secure more than an additional \$2 million for necessary repair work on the structure.** We're enormously proud of our successful efforts to procure these funds and share them with the USACE via Contributed Funds Agreement. These efforts have already empowered us to make a difference; working with our USACE partners in Summer 2014, we were able to reinforce the lakeside wall of the north breakwater through placement of armor stone.

Moreover, we are ourselves financially invested in the cause; recognizing our role in helping to sustain a federal asset that is critically important to our community, we've invested over \$100,000 to retain the services of and partner with Foth Infrastructure & Environmental and SmithGroup JJR in an effort to engage our broader community and its stakeholders in planning; design sustainable, cost-effective engineering solutions; and procure financial resources from the state and federal level for execution on those solutions. Additionally, we recently presented to our elected representatives on the Ozaukee County Board a cost-sharing proposal for redesign and renovation of the "Gateway" portion of the breakwater. Our proposal would mean a 67% city share of the financial responsibility for an estimated \$1.5 million project. In short, **I believe our city is doing all we can to advance funding for and completion of the necessary repair work to the structure.**

**But, Secretary Darcy and LTG Bostick, we need your help.** Without additional funds appropriated from the federal level for this repair work on the federal breakwater protecting our coastal community, we will fail in our efforts to complete the task at hand – and we must not fail.

While I understand the budget challenges facing the USACE, I must reiterate the importance of the breakwaters to Port Washington and Ozaukee County. The USACE report that was released in June 2013 categorized several sections of the breakwaters, representing more than half the structure itself, as "failed" and stated that the next big storm may wash these sections away. Ozaukee County is entirely bordered by Lake Michigan on the east, and Port Washington is the only port in Ozaukee County. Closure or failure of the breakwaters would result in a distance of 60 miles between the two nearest safe harbors. Alarming, the USACE estimated in its past report that failure could cause up to \$70 million of public and private damage, including potential damage to a WE Energies generating station, which provides electricity for thousands of Southeastern Wisconsin residents.

Specifically, we have received a cost estimate of between \$2-\$3 million for structural repair work to sections C through A of the north breakwater, additional armor stone placement on the harbor side of the structure, and placement of armor stone on the lakeside of the federally-owned section of the south breakwater. **All of this repair work is essential to a sustainable solution.** None of it can be funded by our city's limited resources, and likely none of it can be funded through state or federal grant opportunities. **I ask specifically for your help with appropriation of this \$2-\$3 million in funding so we can complete the work we have begun in partnership with the USACE. This funding will enable us to complete all of the work outlined at the outset of this paragraph – work essential to a sustainable structure for generations to come.**

In closing, I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is that repair work of the federal breakwaters protecting our city harbor be completed by the end of calendar year-end 2017. Please consider this appeal for continued partnership with the USACE as you finalize the projects to be included on the prioritized list and in future funding decisions.

With every good wish,

Thomas J. Mlada  
Mayor – City of Port Washington

Cc: The Honorable Senator Ron Johnson, R-Wisconsin  
The Honorable Senator Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisconsin  
The Honorable Congressman Glenn Grothman, 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, R-Wisconsin