Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2014

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

We are writing to encourage the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allocate funding to the Skagit General Investigation Study (G.I.) for Fiscal Year 2014.

For more than 16 years, the Skagit G.I. has continued forward progress on identifying the needed response to repetitive and devastating floods along the Skagit River. With a robust manufacturing center and rich farmlands, the Skagit Valley is home to growing communities that work to develop responsibly on the banks of the West Coast's third largest river. Cities and towns have worked with the county on voluntary efforts to increase their rankings in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System. Local dike and drainage districts and farmers continue to work with partners on innovative projects that improve farmland and the habitat in estuaries and the Skagit River delta while improving levee systems and increasing flood storage.

Despite a challenging economy, leaders across Skagit County have worked cooperatively to fund the local share of the G.I. They also continue to build a sustained common vision for how the G.I. will lead to a safer and stronger Skagit County. The county continues to meet the expectations of a local sponsor, dedicated to the goal of completing the Skagit G.I. on time with tangible results.

We applaud the Army Corps of Engineers for funding the Skagit G.I. with agency discretionary dollars for the past several years. By continuing to provide capability funding, the Corps will assure local stakeholders that the study will be completed on time, paving the way for flood control projects that will protect lives and property in the Skagit Valley.

On behalf of the residents of Skagit County, we ask you to continue your efforts to complete the study and urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allocate capability funding to the Skagit General Investigation for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014 from agency discretionary funds.

Sincerely,

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

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