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**Congress of the United States**  
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**Testimony of Congressman Danny K. Davis**  
**Before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**  
**Member Day Hearing on the Water Resources and Development Act of 2024**  
**January 11, 2024**

Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, and Members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to discuss my requested project priority for inclusion in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024. As the Committee bipartisanly advances a bill that will help strengthen the nation's global competitiveness, grow our economy, and enhance the quality of life for communities throughout the country, I respectfully request your consideration of water resource development and management related activities of great significance to the constituents of the 7th Congressional District of Illinois.

Specifically, I want to highlight the Section 219 water-related environmental infrastructure and development project I submitted on behalf of the Village of Forest Park in Cook County, Illinois. Located in the western suburbs of Chicago and bordered by the Des Plaines River to its west, the Village of Forest Park has long experienced stormwater flooding and overflows of its combined sewer system. In fact, the 1992 WRDA law, authorized \$10 million for the Village of Forest Park to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for wastewater infrastructure and stormwater management projects throughout the Village's 2.4 square miles.

Unfortunately, the Village of Forest Park continues to struggle with stormwater-related issues, such as surcharging sewers and residential/commercial property basement backups due to its undersized, combined sewer system. To remedy these issues, the Village of Forest Park seeks a modification to its existing authorization under Section 219(f)(330) of the WRDA 1992 law, as amended, for an increase of \$40 million for wastewater infrastructure and stormwater management. In particular, the Village plans for the full separation of the storm sewer from the combination sewer so that all stormwater would outfall into the Des Plaines River. Additionally, the Village of Forest Park, as the non-federal project sponsor, requests authorization to work with the USACE to enhance its potable water supply and storage management capacity by relocating and replacing its aged water reservoir and installing a new and modernized pumping station.

In closing, I respectfully request that the Committee include this priority Environmental Infrastructure and Water Management Project for the Village of Forest Park, Illinois, in the Water Resources Development Act of 2024. This modification simply builds upon USACE's existing authority by increasing the project's authorization funding level to meet the municipality's current stormwater and water storage needs. If approved, this project is anticipated to have multiple benefits for the Village of Forest Park, including improved stormwater management resulting from the complete separation of sewers in the Village as well as increased potable water storage capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I look forward to working with you as the WRDA reauthorization bill advances.