

Rep. Tlaib Prepared Testimony

Water Resources Development Act of 2024 – Member Day Hearing

- Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today and share WRDA priorities that are critical for the communities I represent.
- I am here once again to talk about what we need to do to protect my residents from flooding and lead in their water.
- Our communities are on the front lines of the climate crisis, and these floods are only going to continue to get worse and more frequent. At the same time, our aging infrastructure subjects them to health dangers like lead.
- We have to move with urgency.
- Our neighborhoods have experienced *1000-year* rainfalls, and some homes have flood repeatedly. In some of these communities, raw sewage flowed through the streets. Some of our residents still have water standing in their basements from floods that took place months and even years ago.
- Meanwhile, millions of people across Southeast Michigan – and the country – are still getting their water from lead pipes, and we haven't dedicated close to enough money or mobilized resources to address this threat as quickly as we need.
- Our residents deserve better. They deserve action. They need these investments we're here to talk about today.
- The flood maps and projections our communities rely on still don't account for our rapidly warming planet and are simply out of date. And the water infrastructure in these communities is unacceptably

outdated and inadequate for the extreme weather events we now face.

- I refuse to accept this as our new normal.
- As these catastrophic weather events get stronger and more frequent, our communities need the tools to be prepared. This year's WRDA presents an opportunity to equip our communities with improved planning and modern, resilient infrastructure.
- First, I encourage the Committee to offer support to the Detroit Division of the Army Corps of Engineers for a flood study of the Rouge River watershed in my district. The Rouge touches so many of our communities in the 12th District, and we need to better understand how to mitigate its flooding issues.
- Second, I urge the Committee to adopt language that streamlines the real estate requirements for replacing lead service lines on private property, so that we can finish the job and replace lead service lines all the way up to a resident's home.
- Third, I am submitting a number of requests in support of the Great Lakes Water Authority's efforts to prevent and mitigate flooding in both specific neighborhoods in my district experiencing repeated flooding events and across all of Southeast Michigan. These requests are critical to the resiliency of our region, and the investments cannot come soon enough.
- Fourth, I am also submitting requests in support of the Army Corps' priorities for improving navigation across our Great Lakes,

which support billions of dollars in economic activity and recreation.

- I appreciate the opportunity to share my priorities before this Committee, and respectfully request their inclusion in the 2024 Water Resources Development Act. Thank you.