

Crockett T&I Committee Remarks 1/11/2024

Thank you, and good morning, everyone. I first want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their willingness to have Members testify on the water resource development needs impacting the entire country, including my district.

This is the core of what it means to represent your constituents – to hear what is happening on the ground in your community, and come to Congress to fix those issues.

The most pressing issue facing Dallas County in my District is its need to raise the current county-wide authorization cap.

Dallas County is home to over 2.5 million Americans and supports the flow of over \$500 billion in commerce, particularly in the trade and transportation sector impacting the entire United States. Yet our cap is far below where it needs to be.

When my office spoke with the Fort Worth District of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Corps stated that the current authorization cap is not nearly enough to complete the projects currently underway.

Specifically, to complete the dredging of White Rock Lake, the Corps stated that we need an additional \$20 million dollars. But if that is the only increase, Dallas County will be unable to make any other enhancements to water resources in the county.

That is why, in order to complete the current projects and have headroom for projects in the pipeline, the Corps recommends, and as such I urge the Committee to authorize, an additional \$40 million dollars for Dallas County, Texas.

If we do not receive an increase in authorization, we will have begun spending money on a project we do not complete. Even if we choose to resume the project later with subsequently increased authorization, the cost of materials and labor will have risen.

No matter how you look at it, if Dallas County does not receive an increase in authorization, this Congress would be responsible for an unacceptable waste of taxpayer dollars.

There are several other worthy projects that the community desperate needs in Dallas County that you will surely hear about from other Members of the Dallas County delegation today.

But if we don't receive the requested new authorization level of \$80 million dollars, none of those projects will be able to move forward.



I am not here requesting funding for a particular pet project, but instead am working to ensure the projects important to my colleagues across North Texas are able to move forward.

Given the current authorization level was set all the way back in 2007, I hope you all will agree with me that Dallas County is long-overdue for an increase in authorization.

I hope this Committee will take direction from the Army Corps of Engineers, who requested this increase in authorization. And I will close with my hope that we are able to move a strong, bipartisan bill forward at the end of this process. We all lose, and importantly each and every one of our constituents lose, if we aren't able to pass this bill.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to increase the Dallas County, Texas authorization to \$80 million dollars, thank the Committee for its time, and yield back.