February 25, 2020

**Statement re: halting of federal funding for critical US Army Corps of Engineers' study and evaluation of coastal resilience measures**

We can’t clean up hurricanes and sea level rise with mops and buckets. The critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study to prepare for storms like Sandy in our coastal region has been cut from the 2021 Federal budget.

Last Friday, it was announced that after two years of time and investment, the study of how to reduce the risk that New York and New Jersey face from the increasing threat of severe storms was put on hold indefinitely, with no funds to support the completion of the project. This is an awful, short-sighted decision. Surely the study could be improved with additional public input and by taking the sea level rise and flooding that many neighborhoods already experience into consideration. But killing the study as the seas rise and devastating storms loom is playing Russian roulette with the nation’s largest metropolitan region. Not smart.

The Waterfront Alliance calls for immediate reinstatement and full funding for the Army Corps’ NY & NJ Harbor and Tributaries Study, along with refinements that will take into account the rising waters and provide residents in our region a full voice in the most important infrastructure project of our lifetimes.

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