



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

April 26, 2019

Steven M. Sattinger
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commander & District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Colonel Sattinger:

Thank you for the opportunity to write again regarding the State of Illinois' position on the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project. As I wrote in my March 1 letter, I generally support implementation of the recommended plan and construction of structural measures at Brandon Road. Based on that support, the State of Illinois will continue as the non-federal sponsor of the project, and my administration has returned the Self-Certification of Financial Capability and is completing the Real Estate Assessment Checklist with the Army Corps. I also understand that the requirement to operate and maintain the project and the "Hold Harmless" language in Corps project partnership agreements cannot be changed.

However, I would like to reiterate my concerns about the \$778 million cost associated with full implementation of the project. The State of Illinois is not in a financial position to commit to the full plan in its current form. Illinois' financial challenges are having a destabilizing effect on our economy, businesses, jobs, and the future of working families. We have a multi-billion-dollar structural deficit and \$15 billion in debt associated with unpaid bills that necessitate a conversation on the cost of this project.

Due to our state's fiscal condition, my administration must consider cost effective solutions to all problems, including Asian carp. The 2017 draft Brandon Road plan estimated the cost of implementation at \$275 million. The current cost of this project has more than doubled, and my administration is concerned about the cost of the project and the large contingency included in the cost estimate. I would like to discuss how we can lower the cost of this plan and still effectively address the threat of Asian carp. I will not sign a Project Partnership Agreement without a cost control strategy and additional cost sharing among the states. However, the State of Illinois is willing to move forward to preconstruction, engineering and design on the project.



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I understand that we must proactively make efforts to mitigate the threat of Asian carp. I am committed to protecting Lake Michigan and making the State of Illinois more resilient to a variety of threats, including Asian carp, climate change, flooding, and the risks posed by outdated infrastructure. My administration is ready and willing to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on these issues. I ask that we continue the conversation and include our Great Lakes neighbors, who also recognize the urgency of this issue and are critical strategic and financial partners, as we work to implement a solution that benefits everyone at the table.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker".

JB Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois