

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) voted today to override the President's veto of legislation authorizing critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resource studies and projects for the 24th district.

“Last year, the City of Oneonta and much of the Southern Tier region experienced first-hand devastation from flooding and many communities are still in the process of fully recovering,” **said Arcuri, a member of the Water Resources and Environment subcommittee of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**

. “By overriding the President's veto today, we are moving critical projects forward to help communities prevent and reduce the damaging effects of natural disasters. Communities across the 24th district rely on Army Corps of Engineers projects to prevent flooding, protect waterways, and restore critical wetlands and I will keep working in Washington to ensure these projects continue.”

The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (H.R. 1495) conference report would authorize programs through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help local communities control flooding, mitigate flood damage, upgrade aging water and wastewater infrastructure, and oversee environmental restoration. More specifically, the conference report authorizes 400 new projects for the Army Corps of Engineers, 138 projects under the continuing authorities programs, 48 reports of the Chief of Engineers, 100 studies and modifies 160 existing projects.

Projects in the 24th district authorized by H.R. 1495 include:

Broome County:

Operations and Maintenance of Whitney Point Lake, Broome County

Cayuga County:

Coordination with the Towns of Springport and Fleming in Cayuga County to prepare a decision document concerning water infrastructure problems, needs and improvements in the town.

Coordination with the Town of Sennett in Cayuga County and to prepare a decision document concerning water infrastructure problems, needs and improvements in the town.

Assistance to enhance dam safety for State Dam, Auburn, Cayuga County.

Chenango County:

Ecosystem Restoration at Chenango Lake, Chenango County

Cortland County:

Study of flooding problems in Dry and Otter Creeks, City of Cortland, Cortland County. Dry and Otter Creeks run right through the city of Cortland. Cortland had two federally declared disasters

(FEMA) in April 2005.

Oneida County:

Environmental Restoration at Oriskany Wildlife Management Area, Rome

Otsego County:

A new and more efficient method to appoint the U.S. member to the Susquehanna and Delaware River Basin Commissions (SRBC and DRBC). Delaware, Susquehanna, and Potomac River Basin Commissions

Tioga County:

Study of the stream bank erosion problems in Owego Creek, Tioga County

Seneca Falls:

Initiation and completion of a reconnaissance study of the Finger Lakes in central New York State for the purposes of aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection, water quality and invasive species.

The Senate is expected to override the President's veto of H.R. 1495 later this week.

During the 107th, 108th, and 109th Congresses, Congress considered but did not enact Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation, which had previously followed a biennial schedule. WRDA had not been reauthorized since 2000.

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