



*State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor*

*Roy Cooper
Governor*

July 25, 2019

*20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N. C. 27699-0301*

Lt. General Todd T. Semonite
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General
US Army Corps of Engineers
Headquarters
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Lieutenant General Semonite:

On behalf of the State of North Carolina I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input about potential funding from H.R. 2157, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019. We have communicated our prioritization of projects on both Flood Risk Management Studies and on the Initial Construction Projects. I also want to emphasize the historic and financial significance of a top priority, the design and construction of levees for Princeville, NC.

As you may know, Princeville was incorporated in 1885 and is the oldest town incorporated by African Americans in the United States. However, devastating floods in 1999 with Hurricane Floyd and in 2016 with Hurricane Matthew, have left Princeville at a critical point in its recovery. The Water Resources Development Act of 2016 authorized funding for both the design and construction of a levee to protect the town, but the funding has not yet been made available. We were pleased to learn of the possibility of funding through the Supplemental Act, especially as we commit significant federal and state resources to Princeville. This commitment could be better coordinated and expended with certainty about the levee project funding.

To date, 100 Princeville homes have been approved to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and 160 homeowners in Princeville have applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program. The levels of assistance and the height to which these homes will be elevated are fully dependent on the status of the levees. Having a commitment to fund the levee design and


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construction will enable FEMA and HUD funds to be used in coordination with the USACE funds, leading to a more cost-effective solution, a promise of increased safety for the residents of Princeville, and a more resilient North Carolina.

We will continue to work with USACE as we move forward in this process and we look forward to future communication regarding these funds. Thank you for carefully considering this project and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RC Cooper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roy Cooper

cc: Col. Robert Clark / Wilmington District