April 18, 1955

Honorable Allen J. Ellender
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee
Public Works Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Allen:

I am writing this in reference to the item in the Public Works Appropriation Bill for examinations and surveys. I am especially concerned with funds for one particular project in New York State—Smokes Creek—in order to enable the Corps to begin an authorized study.

The Corps of Engineers has informed me that in its planned allocation of fiscal 1956 funds, it has not been able to grant any to the Smokes Creek Project, although the Corps is aware of the need in this particular case. The City of Lackawanna, through which Smokes Creek flows, has since 1953 experienced two severe floods, the latest occurring on March 1st of this year. Preliminary estimates give the damage caused by this flood as exceeding $1 million. Last year, on March 16, the House Public Works Committee approved a resolution authorizing the Engineers to review the report on Smokes Creek which was submitted to Congress on March 16, 1942, with a view to determining the advisability of making improvements for flood control at this time. I am convinced that the need for providing sufficient funds for the Engineers to undertake this review is great.

Therefore, I earnestly request your Subcommittee to approve the necessary funds in order that this preliminary work may be undertaken by the Corps of Engineers in the next fiscal year.

Very sincerely yours,

P. S. I shall be talking to you in person about this within the next few days. I am very eager that something be done with this.