

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

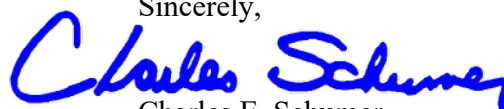
I write to urge you to reverse the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) recent decision for Project #4085-0060, also known as the Sidney Culvert project, after denying a request for an 18-month extension to complete the project. This request comes after the culmination of years of financial assessment, deliberation, and planning to transition the project from the Village of Sidney to Delaware County. By cancelling this project, FEMA will place the Village of Sidney and Delaware County in harm's way and stop critical funding that would help mitigate and prevent flooding in local communities, helping to save lives and reduce the damage and costs of extreme weather.

The Village of Sidney, NY was impacted by devastating flooding in 2006 and 2011, forcing major evacuations and loss of property within the community. Most recently in 2011, flooding left 420 buildings damaged and the proximity of many neighborhoods to the Susquehanna River and Weir Creek have made flooding a constant threat. Since then, New York State, Delaware County, and the Village of Sidney have been working to design and construct mitigation projects to reduce the impacts of future flooding to protect lives and property. This project, as part of the designed flood mitigation strategy, would allow flood waters to recede from the Village quicker, lowering the risk of damages in future flooding events.

As a reimbursable FEMA funded project, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors has established a \$5,000,000.00 project account to finance the construction. These funds have allowed the Village of Sidney and Delaware County to work through project compliance issues, engineering, design and permitting requirements, and develop alternative natural landscape designs to address the Greenplain and Ecological Restoration. Delaware County stepped forward to help the Village of Sidney with management of the construction project, grant management, and financing of the overall project as the implementation strategy of building five large culverts under NYS Route 8 is essential to relieving flooding impacts. Without these critical federal dollars, residents of the Village of Sidney and Delaware County will be at greater risk of property damage, injury, or even loss of life in future extreme weather events.

I urge you to reverse the previous denial decision and approve funding for this project to ensure the Village of Sidney and Delaware County can continue doing this important work to mitigate flooding in local communities and connect Sidney's industrial park to essential areas in the Village.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator