

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3214

December 7, 2015

Col. David Caldwell  
Commander, New York District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY 10278

Dear Col. Caldwell:

I have appreciated your engagement on issues surrounding maintenance of Flushing Bay and Creek in my district in Queens. As you know, a pair of abandoned barges in the bay pose a serious threat to navigation, continue to result in pollution of the water and are an eyesore in our shared community. While I know your agency is exploring options for mitigating this hazard, I ask that the Army Corps of Engineers prioritize removal of the abandoned barges.

Flushing Bay is a critical waterway for New York. In addition to seeing a significant amount of cargo pass through each year, the bay is used by the New York Police Department Harbor Patrol Unit and other vessels. That's why I feel it is important to act without delay to address the presence of decrepit, derelict barges that pose serious problems. Their proximity to the federal navigation channel means that just one heavy storm could sweep the barges into the way of passing vessels. Furthermore, as the barges continue to decay, they release styrofoam and other materials into the water, polluting not just the bay itself, but the nearby shores.

While I will continue to call on the proper federal authorities to conduct an investigation to determine who perpetrated this act and hold that party accountable, I ask that the Army Corps of Engineers act quickly to remove these barges from the water. Any further delays only make it more likely that this problem worsens and its solution gets costlier. I appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you to address this community concern.

Sincerely,

  
Joe Crowley  
Member of Congress