

Mayor McKinlay Applauds Senator Nelson's Announcement of Hoover Dike Funding

Palm Beach County Mayor Melissa McKinlay applauds US Senator Bill Nelson's announcement today that the budget bill, passed by Congress this morning, includes \$776 million for the Herbert Hoover Dike, the full amount needed for the completion of its critical repairs.

This afternoon, at the historic courthouse in downtown West Palm Beach, Senator Nelson announced that the budget bill includes \$15 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers to construct disaster mitigation and resiliency projects. This includes the total funding necessary for the Army Corps to expedite the completion of the Hoover Dike repairs by three years, from 2025 to 2022.

Mayor McKinlay represents the Glades area and the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay. Last year, Hurricane Irma forced the mandatory evacuation of these cities over fears of a potential dike breach.

"This is fantastic news for Glades residents," Mayor McKinlay said. "After last year's significant threat from Hurricane Irma, it is imperative that repairs to the Hoover Dike are expedited to ensure the safety of those living near Lake Okeechobee."

Mayor McKinlay added, "I have spent countless hours walking the halls of Congress, meeting with the Army Corps, writing letters and passing resolutions requesting this funding. It is a huge relief to finally see the dike funded. I thank and applaud Senator Nelson for his nonstop, tireless efforts to secure life-saving appropriations for the Hoover Dike."

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The bill also includes \$6 billion over the next two years to combat the opioid epidemic.

"Opioid abuse is a national public health crisis. When you think of the 600 lives lost in our community alone last year in terms of losing more than an entire Superjumbo plane full of passengers, (the largest passenger plane in the world with 525 passenger seats) you can visualize the crisis we are facing. This funding is crucial in order to save a generation," Mayor McKinlay said.