

is moving forward. The lengthy process underscores problems with projects that are large, he said. "It's not the problem with the bill ... it's an authorization bill, not a reauthorization bill," he said. "And that means that every time you pass WRDA legislation and include new projects, you're just adding them to the pile."

DeGood said, in an appropriate move for the Corps, the bill's sponsors, including Shuster, could authorize billions of dollars in new spending while claiming it paid for itself through the deauthorization of old projects.

"It strengthens our infrastructure and is fiscally responsible at the same time," Shuster said at the time.

**Patient, but nervous**  
In Cedar Rapids, in the absence of federal funds, city leaders have worked with the state and county to raise money for the flood control system. A state law allowed the city to designate certain sales tax revenue to pay for flood protection.

Cedar Rapids has constructed roughly half a mile of levee out of a planned 7.5-mile system, and two out of 11 planned pump stations are operational.

The area's psyche is still vulnerable to the 2008 flood and a flood threat that spooked residents in 2016.

A flood could wash away the growth and prosperity, including a 35 percent gain in the tax base since 2008, said Mayor Bradley Hart.

"We had really hard rain yesterday and last night and this morning, and it already made me nervous," Hart said in May. "It just scares me."

Hart and others who represent the city were positive about their interactions with federal officials.

They're taking what steps they can on their own. They're patient and optimistic. They view the construction as a partnership between the city, state and federal governments. They're doing their part and hoping the federal government contributes its share.

Their efforts to help themselves fit with Trump's infrastructure plan, which was to help local governments that take initiative.

Iowa Republican Sen. Joni Ernst is hopeful as well.

"We have a different perspective now in the White House that values everyday Americans," she said. "So I'm very optimistic."

Cedar Rapids officials say they've been encouraged by meetings with the Trump administration and hope to have good news by the June 13 anniversary of the flood.

"We as a community have every intention of moving forward, but the lack of federal funds will make it very difficult for our community, for our taxpayers," Pomeranz said. "And it's going to keep us ... in limbo."

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established a deauthorization process for projects lingering on the books without funding. The 2016 WRDA deauthorized several projects, and the Congressional Budget Office found the bill would decrease the deficit.

Each law allows authorized projects that haven't received federal funding in several years to be removed from the authorization list.

The move provided a win-win: the bill's sponsors, including Shuster, could authorize billions of dollars in new spending while claiming it paid for itself through the deauthorization of old projects.

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