

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2012

Colonel Anthony Hofmann
District Commander, Kansas City District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Dear Colonel Hofmann:

We write today concerning the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) March 30th Project Implementation Report (PIR) and Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation on shallow water habitat creation at Jameson Island, Missouri. We have heard from many of our constituents across the state expressing concern over both the length of the comment period and the amount of information that has been presented.

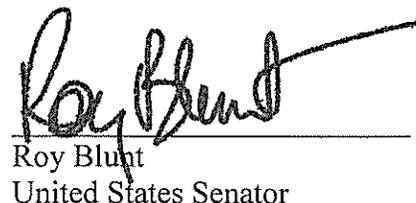
As you know, the creation of shallow water habitat and introduction of excess sediment into the river has long been an issue of great consequence and contention to many Missouri River stakeholders both in our state and throughout the basin. The topic is so important to Missourians that the state's Clean Water Commission has, in the past, taken the significant step to strip the Corps of the necessary permits to conduct this activity in the state. Given the long history of shallow water habitat creation and the important partnership between the Corps and stakeholders, we believe that both a formal public hearing and an extension of the comment period are appropriate.

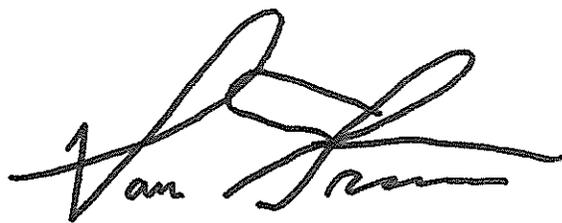
A public hearing will allow stakeholders to express concerns that will be taken into formal consideration by the Corps. A 60-day extension of the comment period to June 30, 2012, will provide stakeholders with a greater opportunity to review the lengthy documentation and provide meaningful comment. For many of the residents living along the Missouri River, the proposed comment period will be opened and closed during the agricultural planting season, making it difficult for some of the individuals that are most impacted by your actions to provide input. Furthermore, given that your staff has instructed many stakeholders to read the documents in their entirety before commenting, we believe you will agree that an extension will help to ensure that submissions are indeed factual and unique.

This issue is far too important to Missourians to be decided in a condensed timeframe. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress


Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



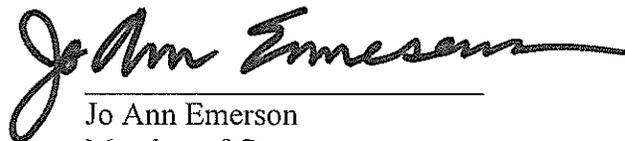
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress