

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 3, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
410 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Vitter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
456 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Shuster and Boxer, Ranking Members Rahall and Vitter:

With the House and Senate establishing a conference committee to negotiate over their respective versions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), we write to bring your attention to policy changes included in each version of WRDA regarding management of the Missouri River and to express support for those underlying concepts.

Section 119 of H.R. 3080 includes language requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to submit detailed information regarding its strategy for managing the Missouri River Mitigation Project to Congress through the president's annual budget. Specifically, the Corps must describe in the president's annual budget all proposed federal actions and assess progress for each fiscal year, and include an inventory of federal, state and private conservation acres along the Missouri River.

Section 2064 of S. 601 prohibits the Corps from charging a surplus water fee for access to Missouri River reservoirs and includes a five million dollar offset from the Corps' Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget for lost future revenue.

Respectively, these sections require long overdue transparency from the Corps regarding the Missouri River Mitigation Project, and prevent the Corps from disregarding the longstanding legal ability of residents, businesses and municipalities to utilize surplus water from the Missouri River without being charged by the federal government.

As members of the Missouri delegation, we express full support for the concepts included in Section 119 of H.R. 3080 and Section 2064 of S. 601 and ask they be included in a conference report for WRDA. However, regarding Section 2064 of S. 601, we have concerns that, as currently written, the five million dollar offset from O&M could adversely affect maintenance of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project, which maintains a vital navigation channel from Sioux City, Iowa to the Mississippi River. To that end, we request conference report language on this issue be drafted in a manner that alleviates this concern.

Utilized for different purposes across many states, the Missouri River spans roughly 2,300 miles from Montana to the Mississippi River and has been a vital resource for the Midwest since the early 19th

century. WRDA serves as our greatest opportunity to make necessary changes to management practices of the Missouri River, and we feel the aforementioned changes are vital in ensuring the longevity of this resource for the citizens of Missouri and the entire Midwest. We appreciate your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-01)



Sen. Roy Blunt (MO)



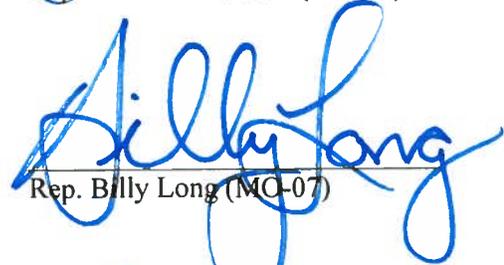
Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay (MO-01)



Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (MO-05)



Rep. Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)



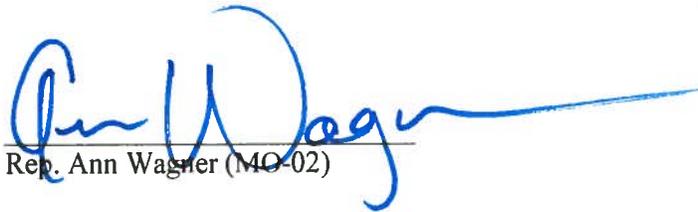
Rep. Billy Long (MO-07)



Sen. Claire McCaskill (MO)



Rep. Jason Smith (MO-08)



Rep. Ann Wagner (MO-02)

cc: Rep. John Duncan (R-TN)  
cc: Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ)  
cc: Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)  
cc: Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)  
cc: Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI)  
cc: Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA)  
cc: Rep. Larry Buschon (R-IN)  
cc: Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH)  
cc: Rep. Richard Hanna (R-NY)  
cc: Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL)

cc: Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC)  
cc: Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)  
cc: Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)  
cc: Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA)  
cc: Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)  
cc: Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)  
cc: Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE)  
cc: Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)  
cc: Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)  
cc: Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)  
cc: Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK)  
cc: Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)  
cc: Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL)  
cc: Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)  
cc: Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY)  
cc: Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD)  
cc: Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)  
cc: Rep. Janice Hahn (D-CA)  
cc: Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN)  
cc: Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)  
cc: Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL)  
cc: Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)