

IKE SKELTON
4TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

2206 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2504
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2876
website: www.house.gov/skelton

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

March 26, 2008

514-B N.W. SEVEN HIGHWAY
BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64014-2733
(816) 228-4242

1401 SOUTHWEST BLVD., SUITE 101
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109-2429
(573) 635-3499

219 NORTH ADAMS STREET
LEBANON, MO 65536-3000
(417) 532-7964

908 THOMPSON BLVD.
SEDALIA, MO 65301-4593
(660) 826-2675

The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Mr. Woodley,

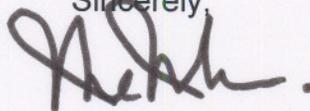
When I learned last evening that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had decided to commence a release of Missouri River water from the Gavins Point Dam in South Dakota, I was extremely disappointed.

In light of recent severe flooding in Missouri and incomplete repairs to levies damaged by flooding in 2007, the Corps' decision to set in motion a spring rise this year is ill advised and adds insult to injury to Show-Me State residents.

Let there be no doubt that Missourians are thankful that Missouri River water in our state is falling below dangerous levels at the current time. However, one need only to review the weather forecast for my hometown of Lexington to understand why those who live along the river are concerned about the Corps' action. The National Weather Service forecast calls for possible rain on four out of the next seven days – just at the time when the pulse of water released in South Dakota is expected to arrive in Missouri.

While I remain hopeful that the Corps' prediction that this particular spring rise will not cause harm to Missouri residents will be accurate, I stand by my long-standing concern that the risk to the American taxpayers associated with a man-made rise do not justify its existence.

Sincerely,



IKE SKELTON
Member of Congress

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