

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2011

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment
B-370A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Timothy Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment
B-375 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gibbs and Ranking Member Bishop:

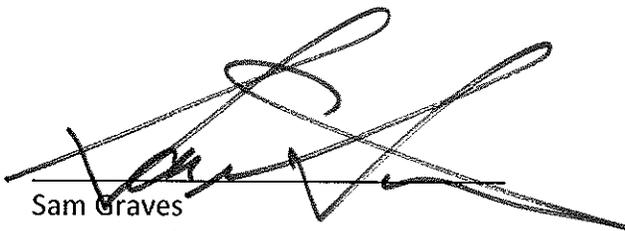
We want to thank you for holding the hearing entitled "The Missouri River Flood: An Assessment of the River Management in 2011 and Operational Plans for the Future." We also greatly appreciate the opportunity to participate.

During this hearing, the subcommittee heard testimony from Members of Congress, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and Missouri River stakeholders. The testimony showed overwhelming support for elevating "flood control" as the primary authorized purpose.

The Corps is required by law to consider eight separate, competing interests when making critical management decisions throughout the entire Missouri River basin. We are not downplaying the roles of other authorized purposes, but Congress must make it clear that the protection of life and property should be the focus. Respectfully, we request that you continue working with us to develop legislative language that will accomplish this goal and which would ultimately be included in a future *Water Resources Development Act*, or related measure.

Again, thank you for holding a hearing to examine the 2011 Missouri River flood event and to discuss operational plans moving forward. We appreciate your commitment to work with us to mitigate future flooding and better protect farmers, families, and businesses in our Congressional districts. Please contact us directly should you have any questions or require additional information.

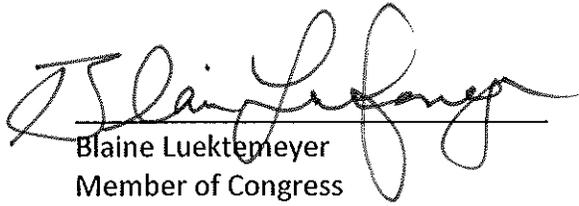
Sincerely,



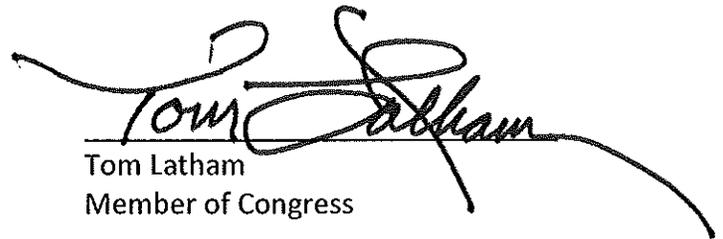
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



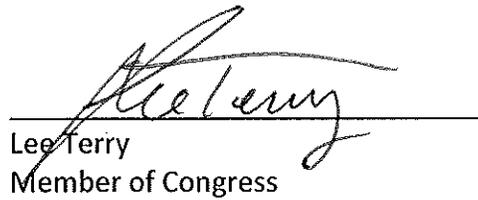
Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



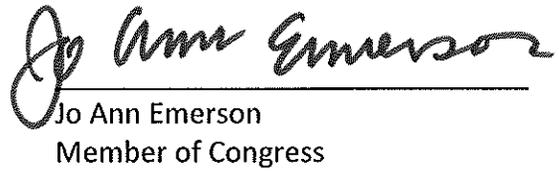
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Tom Latham
Member of Congress



Lee Terry
Member of Congress



Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable John Mica
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

The Honorable Nick Rahall, II
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure