

JASON SMITH
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

**COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY**

COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND
THE INTERNET SUBCOMMITTEE

REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL
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SUBCOMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES**

PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
REGULATION SUBCOMMITTEE

WATER AND POWER SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2508

November 10, 2014

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Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Lieutenant General Bostick,

It is our understanding that barges are currently experiencing avoidable delays on the lower Mississippi River. We request that the Army Corps of Engineers work with industry to resolve these shipping delays as soon as possible. Further, we would ask you to ensure that in the future, private industry is consulted before beginning construction work that closes down, or impedes traffic on the river. It is our understanding that Mississippi River Barge traffic has been severely impeded with daytime closures beginning on Friday, November the 7th, with no prior notice to shippers.

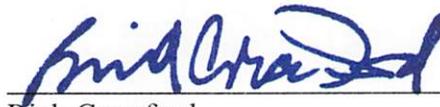
We support the Corps' efforts to enhance flood protection and bank stabilization, and we appreciate the benefits these improvements hold for navigation. Unfortunately, this river closure for "mat-laying" and "revetment work" near Fair Landing, Arkansas (Miles 632 - 635) comes at a particularly inopportune moment. The Midwestern harvest this year is so large that farmers are having a hard time getting their crops to market. Much of this grain is shipped down the river and needs to get to market before winter weather prevents the use of the Mississippi.

In the future, we would also urge the Corps to consider market factors before scheduling construction work that will close down the river for shipping. Such work should be re-scheduled for times when the Mississippi is less busy.

We look forward to your response,



Jason Smith
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Rick Crawford
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Sam Graves
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Billy Long
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



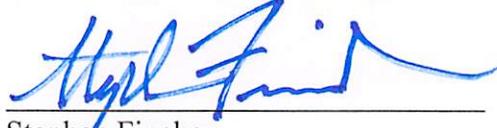
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