

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 19, 2022

Mr. Michael Connor  
Assistant Secretary for Civil Works  
Department of the Army  
1600 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-1600

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor:

As the Administration begins the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), we urge you to prioritize funding for the Lower Missouri River Basin, including the Navigation and Flood Control Studies and the Bank Stabilization and Navigation (BSNP) Project, as you allocate funding from the bill and in the Fiscal Year 2022 Work Plan for the Army Civil Works Program.

In the aftermath of the historic 2019 flooding in the Lower Missouri River Basin, the Governors of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska came together and called on the Corps to do something different to address the recurring flooding and continued flood risk in the basin. We are pleased that the Lower Missouri River Flood Risk and Resiliency Study is working towards a System Plan that will provide a blueprint for resiliency against flooding on the river. Local, state, and federal partners also agreed on the need for authorities given in Sec. 216 of the 2020 Water Resources Development Act to quickly “spin off” additional, site-specific studies to address more immediate needs. These spin-off studies, currently identified and ready to initiate an agreement with sponsors in Holt County, Missouri, Brunswick, Missouri, Jefferson City, Missouri, are addressing devastating, recurring flooding with the intent that any solutions will be beneficial in a larger, more holistic System Plan. Two additional sites have been identified in the Iowa/Nebraska reach of the River, at the mouth of the Platte River and at Nebraska City, Nebraska, and could be initiated in the future. The IIJA legislation provides funding to initiate and complete these spin-off studies concurrently with the larger system plan, which will recognize synergies and efficiencies in the process. We ask you to prioritize these projects in any funding allocation.

The 2019 flood also severely damaged the BSNP itself. While much work has been done on BSNP repairs, there remains over \$300 million in needs across the Omaha and Kansas City Districts to bring the Lower Missouri River to pre-flood conditions. We request funding to match this year’s full capability needs. We also request funding for increased physical assets so that both districts are able to improve their ability to maintain the BSNP for congressionally authorized purposes. Since navigation and flood control are closely linked, crucial repairs to the BSNP will prove very beneficial in reducing bank erosion and improving flood control needs for the lower river. Improving the BSNP will also have benefits extending past St. Louis, due to the important flow support the Missouri River provides to the middle-Mississippi River.

We are seeing more interest in navigation on the Missouri River and that demand will only increase with the opening of the Port Blencoe, Iowa and facility improvements at St. Joseph,

Waverly, and Boonville, Missouri. Plus, AGRIServices of Brunswick and Port KC are working hard to add container shipping in the near future. Once again we are pleased the Corps is working on the Lower Missouri Navigation Study which will ensure the BSNP matches today's shipping needs. We request that you allow the Navigation Study to "spend ahead" its federal funds in the first couple of years to give local partners with limited resources more time to contribute their share of funding.

Thank you for your time and attention to these requests as you allocate funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and work on the Fiscal Year 2022 Work Plan for the Army Civil Works Program. It is important that we operate our inland rivers as a system where reliability and human life and safety are key and stop the repetitive, devastating flood events on the Lower Missouri River.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



Roger W. Marshall  
Member of Congress

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran  
United States Senator

Sharice L. Davids

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra

Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Jake LaTurner

Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer

Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress