

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2012

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

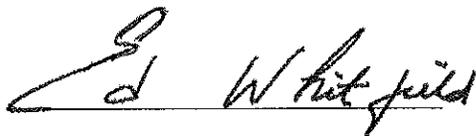
Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

We are writing regarding barge traffic challenges due to the 2012 drought on the Mississippi river and the impact low water levels are having on businesses that utilize the inland waterways system.

As you know, the importance of navigation to the U.S. economy cannot be underestimated or taken for granted. For the U.S. to recover from the economic downturn and the 2012 drought, we must make full use of our God given resources. With that in mind, it has recently come to our attention that barge traffic may come to a halt on the Upper Mississippi River in the coming months, which would cause a logistical nightmare in the impacted states. It is our understanding that measures can be taken, including removing obstructions and increasing water release on the Missouri river, to help ensure that barge traffic is able to continue. We urge you and your team to do everything possible to fast-track measures to alleviate this problem. Your prompt action is vital to our economy and ensuring that businesses are able to receive and deliver supplies.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Should you need to speak with someone to discuss the impact low water levels are having on the Commonwealth of Kentucky, please contact Melissa Buchanan, with the office of Congressman Whitfield at (202) 225-3115 or Tate Bennett, with the office of Congressman Guthrie at (202) 225-3501.

Sincerely,



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress