



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

August 10, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

We learned that you will once again be traveling to our nation's heartland next week during your three-day economic bus tour to visit multiple cities and states in the Midwest. We appreciate the fact that you have again chosen to travel to the Midwest to discuss the challenges our economy is facing.

There is no doubt that economic concerns continue to weigh on Americans' minds as our nation continues to struggle with high unemployment and significant uncertainty. However, as the representatives of those who live along the Missouri River, we are again writing to you on behalf of the individuals and communities we represent that have suffered significant damage and hardship as a result of this summer's historic flooding. Since May 25th, flooding along the Missouri River and its tributaries has forced hundreds of evacuations and has significantly impacted the communities in the Missouri River basin. Until July 29, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was releasing water from Gavin's Point near Yankton, South Dakota at a record rate of 160,000 cubic feet per second, more than twice the previous record outflow set in 1997.

Although USACE has announced their drawdown strategy and has decreased the outflow to 150,000 cubic feet per second, the record releases that were sustained through the end of July caused severe damage to homes, businesses, public infrastructure, and farm land. Given the severity of the Missouri River flooding, we again ask that during your trip to the Midwest on August 15-17, you make time in your schedule to visit the communities along the Missouri River that have been hardest hit by the rising waters in order to gain a firsthand understanding of the situation and to offer support and comfort to the individuals living there.

We stand ready to help in any way possible to facilitate this visit. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for assistance. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



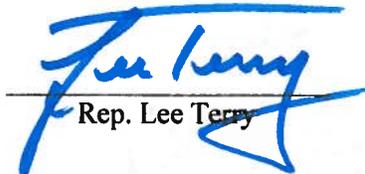
Rep. Steve King



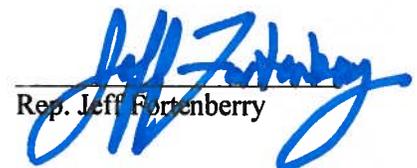
Rep. Lynn Jenkins



Rep. Sam Graves



Rep. Lee Terry



Rep. Jeff Fortenberry