

April 23, 2001

The Honorable Trent Lott
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

Dear Senator Lott:

The Mississippi River and Tributaries Project in the FY 2002 Energy and Water Appropriations is important to the livelihoods of many Mississippians. This project is crucial for protecting the health, safety, and economic prosperity of Mississippi and our neighbors by preventing floods and other high-water disasters.

I support increased funding for the Mississippi River and Tributaries project that would include sufficient funding to enhance the mainline Mississippi River levee system,

- (1) Upper Yazoo Project – This project, which will safely convey headwater from the hills to the Mississippi River once completed, must continue on schedule. A total of \$15 million is needed to complete Item 4B to Greenwood initiate construction on Items 5A and 5B, initiate construction on Item 7 sediment control structures, and purchase right-of-way and mitigation.
- (2) Demonstration Erosion Control Project – Although the Administration's budget provides no funding for this project, I feel it has a substantial impact on protecting residents of the Delta by reducing the effects of siltation from hill counties into Delta streams. A total appropriation of \$21 million is needed for this project.
- (3) Yazoo Backwater – A total of \$6 million is required for this project, of which \$3 million is needed for acquisition of reforestation easements and the balance for planning; engineering; and design.
- (4) Big Sunflower River – A total of \$6.4 million is needed for this project, including approximately \$5.4 million over the President's request for the second construction contract and right-of-way acquisition on an item of work below Holly Bluff, Mississippi.
- (5) Tributaries – A total of \$1.2 million is needed for this project in order to complete bank stabilization and shoreline protection work.

- (6) Arkabutla Reservoir – A total \$11.5 million is needed for this project. Along with the Sardis, Enid and Grenada reservoirs, the Arkabutla Reservoir is an important storage point for water flowing from the hill area towards the Delta.
- (7) Sardis Reservoir – An total \$18 million is needed to complete dam bank protection, repair roads and parking areas, replace water treatment systems at recreation areas, relocation of Highway 7 boat ramp, construction of project management office and funding of an existing operation and maintenance contract.
- (8) Enid Reservoir – A total of \$7.5 million is needed to repair water well and water treatment and storage facilities and to fund an operation and maintenance contract.
- (9) Grenada Reservoir – A total of \$7.8 million is needed to repair the visitors center and for shoreline protection, electrical systems, access roads, and relocation of recreational facilities.
- (10) Mississippi River Levees – A total of \$9.5 million for the Mississippi Valley Division is needed, which includes \$3 million for the Vicksburg District and \$5.6 million for the Memphis District.

As always, thank you for your strong and continued support of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project. Your support of increased funding for this project in FY 2002 will have a substantial impact on ensuring the continued prosperity of Mississippi well into the future.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/mtb