



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

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JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
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September 17, 2013

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

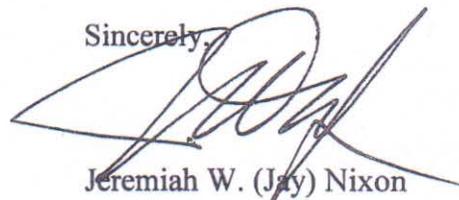
I am writing to express my concern that the US. Army Corps of Engineers is proceeding with the construction of the Jameson Island Missouri River mitigation project.

Missourians support conservation efforts that are scientifically based. However, the Jameson Island project and other Corps' shallow water habitat projects throughout the basin conflict with established state policies that benefit the integrity of Missouri's soil and water. And they do so without clear and convincing evidence that such projects are critical to the preservation of some other asset, in this case the pallid sturgeon. The people of Missouri have repeatedly expressed their support for preserving the state's soil and water resources, with one example being the passage, and continued renewal, of the one-tenth of one percent Parks and Soils sales tax for the purpose of protecting these critical resources for future generations. Unlike the activities involved with the Jameson Island Project, these taxpayer funds are used by landowners to implement practices to prevent or minimize sediment and nutrients from entering our waterways. It is counter to our State's long standing soil stewardship ethic that the Corps continues to proceed with these projects while unnecessarily disposing of Missouri's soil resources.

Similar concerns exist with respect to the effect such projects will have on the State's levee infrastructure. There has not been sufficient investigation into the effects of the chute projects on adjacent flood control infrastructure so critically important to Missouri.

The Corps should discontinue activities at Jameson Island – and should not commence such activities elsewhere – until it obtains independent findings that such projects: 1) are critical to the preservation of the targeted species; and 2) can be undertaken without a deleterious effect on Missouri's valued resources.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor