

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2011

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Historic flooding in the Mississippi River system is ravaging the central and southern regions of our nation. The high waters are threatening millions of lives, damaging hundreds of thousands of acres of cropland, and devastating small businesses. The flood victims, as well as Americans impacted by recent tornadoes, should have access to all available federal aid to begin their recovery. Equally important, the federal government must recognize the critical importance of the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, and other rivers in Louisiana and take swift action to avert a related, looming, economic disaster.

The Mississippi River system alone has tributaries reaching 30 states and is the primary conduit for transportation of exports exceeding \$100 billion annually. Nearly two-thirds of our grain and seed oil products are exported through this river system. Hundreds of thousands of Americans depend on this system to remain competitive in the world markets.

As the Mississippi's high waters recede, the sediment will settle, silting in the river at unprecedented rates, and placing American goods at a competitive disadvantage. Without additional and immediate dredging funding to the Army Corps of Engineers, the increased sedimentation will severely restrict maritime traffic, resulting in countless job losses that will further hamper our nation's economic recovery.

In addition, our levee systems have suffered from the record flooding. Many areas along the river and its tributaries have seen seepage and sand boils which weaken the system. Rarely used floodways and spillways have been put into operation and are now being strained. As the flood continues down river, the weaknesses will continue to grow, as will the number of homes and lives impacted.

While the flooding has done most of its damage, there is still time to prevent this second economic disaster. Accordingly, we request that the Administration include adequate funding for dredging the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, and other rivers, and maintenance of their respective levee systems, in any supplemental appropriations request made of Congress. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



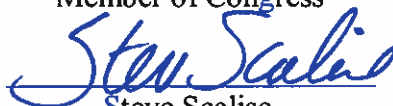
Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress



Charles Boustany, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Rodney Alexander  
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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