

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2402

December 3, 2009

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

As you begin to craft new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) language, I request that the following projects are included in the new legislation.

- **Water and Wastewater Infrastructure/Storm water Management and Drainage Improvements Program-City of Jackson, Mississippi.** This critical environmental infrastructure project, of the highest priority for the City of Jackson, will help the City face enormous challenges in (1) rehabilitating its aging and rapidly deteriorating water and sewer systems, and (2) addressing serious and urgent storm water management and drainage needs. The assistance sought with the proposed new WRDA amendments is directly related to the City's ability to comply with a Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality regulatory order to meet necessary operations and treatment capacity requirements and to avoid unacceptable discharges of wastewater into the Pearl River.
- **Holt Collier Visitor and Interpretive Center, Sharkey County, Mississippi.** Authorize funding for operation and maintenance of facility.

In addition to the project request, I also would like the following language included in the upcoming WRDA bill.

- **Language to clarify the process for approving the use of the revolving Plant Replacement and Improvement Program (PRIP) fund for the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)** (please find attached draft language).
- **Language to develop methods and recommendations to provide financial and other assistance to non-Federal entities facing levee decertification.**

I thank you in advance for your consideration of these requests, and I wish you great success on this critical legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Cory Horton in my office at (202)225-5876.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress