

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 5, 2007

The Honorable R. David Paulison
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Paulison:

We write to express our continuing concern regarding the Zone X warnings placed on flood insurance rate maps at areas protected by certified levees and to indicate support for an alternative wording that prioritizes both community safety and economic development. It is our sincere hope that we can find constructive ways to work together to ensure the reliability of our nation's levee systems.

We have appreciated your willingness to meet with us, our staffs, and our constituents to consider the unique perspectives of communities along the Mississippi River and Tributary (MR&T) levee system. As you know, the MR&T levee system was designed and built by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in 1928. Since that time, the federally constructed system has never failed. It currently exceeds the 100-year flood map elevation standards by 12 feet and the 500-year flood standards by 7 feet.

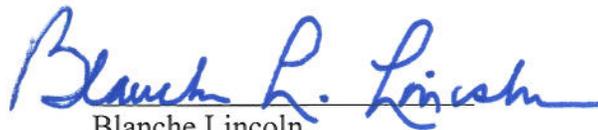
For this reason, we followed with interest the adoption of Amendment 825 to H.R. 3121, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2007, in the House of Representatives on September 27, 2007. We introduced identical language as a stand-alone bill in the Senate on October 4, 2007. This legislation would provide FEMA with the flexibility to distinguish between certified levees that provide protection from special flood hazards and those that have not been certified by the federal government on federal flood insurance rate maps. We ask that you carefully consider this language and incorporate the distinction to make the new flood maps as accurate and informative as possible.

Again, thank you for your attention to this matter. We continue to appreciate your responsiveness to our concerns about the map modernization process, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor
United States Senator



Blanche Lincoln
United States Senator



Christopher Bond
United States Senator



Thad Cochran
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator