

*CITY OF LISBON  
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August 12, 2010

Honorable Senator Conrad  
Federal Building  
657 2 Ave N  
Fargo, ND 58102

RE: Testimony for Devils Lake Downstream Impact

Honorable Senator Conrad:

The City of Lisbon is currently working on a feasibility study for permanent levees for future flood protection.

There are seventeen homes considered for buyouts. These homes, with the exception of one are located in the proposed permanent levee per Moore Engineering study. If the current temporary levees are removed from the floodway, this will leave us more in harms way.

Furthermore, if they are bought out by FEMA, no levee may be placed on these properties for permanent protection in the future.

A solution needs to be implemented now to avoid an emergency created as a result of an uncontrolled spill from Devils Lake. A controlled outlet needs to be established today, to both protect cities downstream and the quality of drinking water for the public. Also, if we have to take out levees, it would take more time to prepare for another flood event.

We feel the citizens are better served with the levees that are in place at this time. We realize that they are temporary levees, but they serve as better assurance to people than having to place new levees during an emergency. This emergency could come with snow compact still on the ground, which creates a loss of stability for any new levees.

The State and Federal Governments need to reconsider removal of the temporary levees, especially those constructed in the floodway until a permanent solution can be achieved.

Financial assistance from State & Federal entities must be considered as the City of Lisbon has incurred extensive expenses in the last two years from flooding. We have been working closely with FEMA for reimbursement, but as you are aware they do not cover expenses at one hundred percent.

Time is of essence to ensure protection of people's property and their personal safety.

Your consideration and timely action is of utmost important to us all.

Yours truly,

L. Ross Cole, Mayor  
City of Lisbon

LRC:rae