

JERRY F. COSTELLO

12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

costello.house.gov

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE  
OFFICE CHECKED BELOW:

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE  
AVIATION (RANKING MEMBER)  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### Washington, DC 20515-1312

August 28, 2012

Colonel, Christopher G. Hall  
District Commander  
St. Louis District Corps of Engineers  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Dear Colonel Hall:

The purpose of this letter is to state my strong opposition to any effort to reduce the lock operation at the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam.

I have heard from many of my constituents and stakeholders expressing their serious concerns over any future recommendation by the Corps to reduce the lock operation at the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam. Your district staff will recall that I have firmly opposed previous attempts to close or reduce the hours of operation on the Kaskaskia and strongly oppose any change to the Master Plan to reduce operations.

The Kaskaskia Regional Port District is growing and expanding. Twenty million bushels of grain were shipped and exported last year from the river and Prairie State's coal mine, which produces 7 million tons of coal annually, depends on the on-time delivery of in-bound scrubber stone to reduce emissions. Therefore, keeping the facility open at all times is important for the economy in our area and for the nation, which depends on the steady flow of commerce through the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam.

I am glad to hear you intend to lead a coordinated effort among federal and state agencies, in addition to non-governmental organizations, industry and other stakeholders to gather input. I agree that the involvement of all the stakeholders is important to update and develop a successful plan. Please keep me informed of future meetings and opportunities to discuss the status of this planning effort as it progresses.

Sincerely,



Jerry F. Costello  
Member of Congress