

AARON SCHOCK
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May 13, 2011

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky,

The Army Corps of Engineers' Construction Account is important to keeping America competitive in the global marketplace, and also ensuring that our nation's environmental resources are preserved.

I want to sincerely thank you and the subcommittee for its past assistance and continued support for ensuring the efficient flow of barge traffic and environmental stewardship on our river systems.

I ask for your continued support of the important progress on river transportation and environmental resource improvement.

Integrated efforts to ensure the efficient flow of barge traffic and the protection of the system's unparalleled habitat are vital to the region and the nation. This is important to the industries and farmers who need to move their American products and goods into the global marketplace, as well as the citizens and communities who rely on the system for clean water and its other abundant ecosystem services.

Bringing together ecosystem improvement with the modernization of the river transportation systems, is good news not only for the environment, but also for reducing costly barge transportation delays which can slow down the movement of agricultural and manufacturing goods to the marketplace. This is essential to balancing the needs of the environment and the economy.

Environmental stewardship projects and long term resource monitoring has restored nearly 100,000 acres of floodplain habitat.

Ensuring that the locks and dams are capable of providing effective traffic flow is critically important to the agriculture and manufacturing industries, and ultimately the consumer.

Bringing together environmental stewardship and waterway transportation upgrades is not only supported by the agriculture industry, but also states, environmental groups, the commercial navigation industry, labor groups, and an array of other stakeholders.

I again thank the Committee for its support of the health of the economy and the ecosystem, and for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Schock", written over a horizontal line.

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress