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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 5, 2011

COMMITTEES:
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT,
CHAIRMAN

Brigadier General John McMahon
Commander, Northwestern Division
US Army Corps of Engineers
1125 NW Couch Street, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97209

Dear General McMahon,

Thank you again for visiting me recently to discuss the flooding along the Missouri River and the flood-fighting measures being taken by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). I appreciate your time and look forward to meeting again in the near future to continue this discussion.

I write today to bring your attention to what I, and many of my constituents, find to be a poorly-timed, ill-considered Corps decision to issue letters to landowners along the Missouri River gauging their interest in selling all or part of their land to the United States for the purposes of fish and wildlife habitat restoration. For reference, I have attached such a letter, dated June 6.

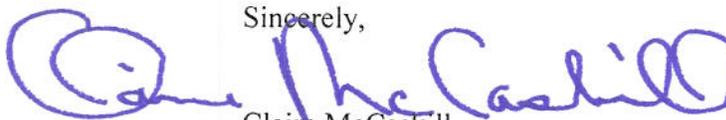
In light of the potentially devastating floods along the river, I respectfully request that your division cease issuance of these letters until the flooding has subsided.

I am aware that the federal government, through the Corps, is authorized to acquire land along the river to restore habitat losses that have resulted from the construction, operation and maintenance activities associated with the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project. However, I share my constituents' conviction that all efforts and attention, on the part of the Corps, landowners, and others associated with the Missouri River, be directed toward flood control and mitigation.

During this trying time, where communities and residents along the entire river's reach are experiencing or trying to prevent the loss of their livelihoods, it is improper for the Corps to be issuing such solicitations. I know that you share my sincere hope that everyone associated with this great river can successfully work together to address this flood and prevent future flood events.

In service of this goal, I reiterate my request that the Corps discontinue sending these solicitations. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

CC: Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Major General Merdith W.B. Temple, Chief of Engineers, United States Army

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