

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 5, 2010

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

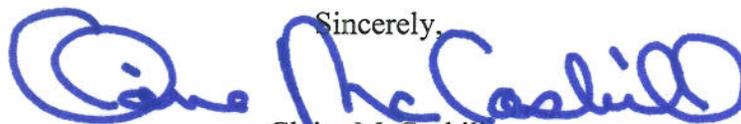
Dear Secretary Darcy,

I write to once again urge you to assist the Southeast Missouri Regional Port Authority (SEMO Port) and the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by initiating a Corps-led dredging of the SEMO Port harbor. I make this renewed request in light of additional funding provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010.

In April of this year, I wrote to you to ask that the Corps make available the necessary funding to complete the SEMO Port harbor dredging project. In your response, you noted that while funds were not budgeted to dredge SEMO Port in Fiscal Year 2010, that "should excess funds become available...consideration will be given to this project." In light of your response, I am pleased that the Supplemental Appropriations Act includes funding for dredging, as well as funding to rehabilitate and repair damage caused by natural disasters. It is my understanding that either of these funding sources would be sufficient in meeting the costs associated with dredging this important harbor.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, SEMO Port and the cargo that enters and exits it are critical to the farm economy of Southeast Missouri and our state as a whole. Each year, area producers use the harbor to ship nearly one million tons of corn, rice, fertilizer, and other items essential to agricultural operations. Again, I urge you to use the additional funding provided by the aforementioned legislation to initiate dredging of the SEMO Port harbor.

Thank you for taking the time to help address this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Corey Dukes of my staff at (202) 224-6154.

Sincerely,


Claire McCaskill
United States Senator