

ALAN LOMAX, WROTE –THE LEVEE IS  
HIGHER AND LONGER THAN THE GREAT  
WALL OF CHINA, VERY LIKELY THE  
BIGGEST THING THAT MAN HAS EVER  
MADE. IT WAS THE PRINCIPAL HUMAN  
RESPONSE TO THE TITANIC POWER OF  
THE GREAT RIVER.

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I AM HARRY STEPHENS AND WHAT A  
PRIVILEGE IT IS TO STAND BEFORE THE  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION  
THANK YOU. I AM HERE TO REP THE  
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL  
ASSOC. CONCERNING THE MISSISSIPPI  
RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES PROJECT. I  
HAVE JUST COME FROM WASHINGTON  
WITH MANY OTHER MEN FROM UP  
AND DOWN THE RIVER, ██████████  
PLEADING WITH OUR LEGISLATORS  
FOR \$500 MILLION DOLLARS. WE  
APPRECIATE THAT THIS CONTINUES TO  
BE A LINE ITEM IN THE BUDGET. AS

**MUCH MONEY AS THIS IS, IN HARD TIMES I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT THE INVESTMENT IN THE MR&T SYSTEM IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2011 FLOOD RESULTED IN MORE THAN \$246 BILLION WORTH OF DAMAGES PREVENTED BY THE MR&T SYSTEM. A RETURN ON FEDERAL DOLLARS INVESTMENT OF 46-1. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO STOP OR SLOW DOWN THE CONTINUITY OF THIS HIGH VALUE, HIGH RETURN & MUCH NEEDED NATIONAL INVESTMENT, IT IS AN INVESTMENT NOT AN EXPENSE. THE MR&T PROJECT AFFORDS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SAVINGS IN TRANSPORTATION RATE EACH YEARS. THIS IS OF GREAT VALUE**

**TO THE ENTIRE NATION NOT JUST THE PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY. WE THANK THE CONGRESS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND PAST FUNDING.**

**MY GREAT UNCLE JAMES MILLANDER HANKS, WROTE IN HIS DIARIES FROM 1864-1909 AND HE TOLD ABOUT TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON IN 1866 TO TALK TO THEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON ABOUT THE LEVEE. HE WAS THE FIRST REP. FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT IN ARKANSAS, THE JOB NOW HELD BY REP. RICK CROWFORD. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LEVEE WAS THERE THEN, BUT EACH OF US SHOULD BE PROUD TO BE A PART OF A PARTNERSHIP THAT BEGAN WITH PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS,**

**LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS AND FINALLY THE FEDERAL INVESTMENTS. THERE IS NO OTHER SYSTEM THAT HAS BEEN OR CONTINUES TO BE OF SUCH BENEFITS TO OUR COUNTRY.**

**THE MR&T PROJECT IS A WISE INVESTMENT FOR THIS COUNTRY AND IT IS GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY. IT WILL BE A VITAL LINK TO THE DEFENCE OF OUR COUNTRY IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK BY OUR ENEMIES. THIS PROJECT MUST BE TARGETED FOR SWIFT COMPLETION AND PROPER MAINTENANCE. LOCAL INTERESTS HAVE DONE THEIR PART. WE NEED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FULLFILL ITS OBLIGATION AND “INFRA STRUCTOR**

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**INVESTMENT” AND BRING THE MR&T PROJECT TO COMPLETION NOW. FEMA- A FEW YEARS AGO TRIED TO INITIATE ACTION THAT WOULD REQUIRE US TO BUY INSURANCE ON ALL REAL PROPERTY IN THEIR FLOOD ZONE ON THE PROTECTED SIDE OF THE LEVEE. THE PROTECTED SIDE OF THE LEVEE. THEY GAVE THE LEVEE NO CREDIT, EVEN AFTER PROVING ITSELF IN 2011, THE MR&T PROJECT WORKED ON A 500 YEAR FLOOD EXACTLY AS DESIGNED. THROUGH A LOT OF WORK AND WISDOM OUR LEGISLATORS AND THE CORP STOPPED THIS TAX. NOW WE HAVE THE NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY COMMITTEE WHICH CAN**

**IMPOSE UNACHIEVABLE STANDARD ON OUR LEVEES, JAN.30, 2015 WE GOT EXECUTIVE ORDER 13690. THIS AMENDS FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARDS, COMING FROM A GROUP WORKING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.**

**THEY WOULD RAISE THE VERTICAL ELEVATION ON OUR LEVEES AS MUCH AS 3' AND THE CORRESPONDING HORIZONTAL EXTEND OF THE AREA PROTECTED BY THE LEVEES. THE EPA AND THE CLEAN WATER ACT, THE "RULES CLARIFICATION" ARE SO VAGUE. THEY COULD BE REGULATING ALL WATER FROM THE POTHOLE IN THE ROAD TO YOUR BATH WATER AND ALL**

**BETWEEN. FOOD PROBLEMS WE  
 CANNOT LET THESE FEDERAL  
 BUREAUERACIES NEGATE THE EFFORTS  
 THAT HAVE PROVIDED THE BEST FLOOD  
 CONTROL AND NAVIGATION SYSTEM  
 ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET.  
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THE  
 RESULTING \$100'S OF BILLIONS OF  
 DOLLARS IN DAMAGES AVERTED  
 BECAUSE YOU SUPPORTED THE  
 FUNDING OF THE GREATEST CIVIL  
 WORKS PROJECT ON THE PLANET THE  
 MR&T!!!**

**[REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]**

**MARK TWAIN ONCE SAID "TEN THOUSAND RIVER COMMISSIONS...CANNOT TAME THAT LAWLESS STREAM...CANNOT SAY TO IT GO HERE OR GO THERE AND MAKE IT OBEY."      THANK YOU.**

*Cary B. Stephens  
Helena, Ark.*