

Dear Mrs. Chocolate:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on March 6, 2002.

The Corps shares your frustrations in the lack of flood control and the impact on your community. The damage has been documented time and time again with every passing flood. However, even after meetings with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and environmental groups, there remains considerable opposition to the recommended plan. The recommended plan offers a balanced approach to the economic and environmental needs of the South Delta. Environmental resources will increase, low-lying farmland will be converted from agricultural to bottomland hardwoods, recreation opportunities will increase, and many other positive factors will be gained for the area.

The Commission recognizes the success stakeholders like you and other Delta citizens have had in working with members of Congress in securing funding for this work. The Corps remains committed to executing all projects fully consistent with the Congressional appropriations.

Thank you again for your comments before the Commission. We appreciate receiving your views and look forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
President, Mississippi River  
Commission