

Dear Mr. Greenwood:

Thank you for your testimony before the Mississippi River Commission at the public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 5, 2002. In your statement you expressed concern over the Fiscal Year 2003 funding level for the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project, support for the Upper Yazoo project, appreciation for the ongoing and planned seepage control projects along the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta (YMD) levee, the need for additional gravel on the upper half of your levee district, and a commitment to co-sponsor Continuing Authorities projects with local governments.

The Commission recognizes the efforts of your board in securing additional funds for the MR&T project. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, the Fiscal Year 2003 budget request for the MR&T project is \$280 million, which is \$66 million less than appropriated this current fiscal year.

The Commission continues to strive for the completion of the Upper Yazoo projects. As of now, Item 4B construction, just above Greenwood, is underway and scheduled for completion in June 2002. The contract awards for Channel Items 5A and 5B and Structure Item 7 are scheduled for award before the end of Fiscal Year 2002. The Commission acknowledges the successful efforts of your Levee Board and the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association in support of this ongoing work. The Corps understands the importance of the Upper Yazoo projects and is

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working diligently to ensure the execution of all the Yazoo Basin projects as rapidly as possible within available funds.

Thank you for your kind words regarding the efforts of the Memphis District to implement seepage control projects along the YMD levee. The Memphis District has constructed a slurry trench at Stovall and plans to implement several more projects over the next 2 years to minimize the threat of underseepage along the YMD levee. The Commission fully supports these projects and appreciates the cooperation and efforts of the YMD Levee Board to implement them.

In regard to your request for gravel on the upper portion of your levee system, current funding limitations and relative

priority with other maintenance items within the Memphis District will delay any near-term accomplishment of gravel work. Funding for the work performed on the lower 37 miles last year was congressionally added. The Memphis District staff will perform an annual inspection with you this year and determine if any needs are critical and require immediate attention. These needs will then be assessed relative to other maintenance priorities.

The Corps looks forward to working with the YMD Levee Board in pursuit of Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) projects. If you have any questions regarding the CAP, please contact Mr. Dennis Abernathy of the Memphis District at 901-544-0798.

The Commission appreciates receiving your views and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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