



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**Pat Quinn**  
GOVERNOR

March 21, 2012

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

My goal in writing you today is to help ensure the timely completion of needed improvements to the Metro East levees in Madison, St. Clair and Monroe Counties.

I am asking for your help on two items that will accelerate successful construction on this \$160 million, locally financed public works project. As you know it is critical to more than 150,000 residents, 4,000 employers, 25 communities and 56,000 jobs in the American Bottoms flood plain area.

First, I am asking the Corps to support a project labor agreement (PLA) that will keep jobs related to this project local, on budget and on schedule. In Illinois, our agencies have worked with their federal counterparts to complete 262 public works projects using PLAs for road, bridge and vertical construction efforts statewide. We have 400 more active state- and federally-funded efforts now using PLAs that help secure a local, quality workforce for the infrastructure projects that serve our communities.

Second, I am concerned about the time and expense local project leaders have reported with respect to the US Army Corps of Engineers "408" permit. To date more than \$1 million local dollars have been spent on the 408 process. Every effort has been (and will continue to be) made to be as thorough and responsive as possible, but I request your partnership in taking every reasonable measure to assist the Flood Prevention District to expedite the 408 permit review.

The stakes are very high for residents in St. Clair, Madison and Monroe counties – who cannot afford to have our levee-protected areas in the American Bottoms designated as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) by FEMA. The construction restrictions, flood insurance and building elevation requirements that such a designation would confer will harm the economic growth we need in Illinois.

As such, I have directed my Agriculture, Commerce, Natural Resources and Transportation department directors to offer their full support to this effort. They stand ready to assist in any way needed. Together we can make sure that this project is a success that reflects well on the many local, state and federal partners involved.

Thank you again for working with my team to ensure the continued development of our state, and especially of the Metro East region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn  
Governor