

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

March 26, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Darcy,

I write in support of levee rehabilitation projects in the Metro East, Illinois, region, and to urge the Corps to engage in a Project Labor Agreement for these projects. I have discussed these projects with you and your predecessors many times. They are a high priority for me.

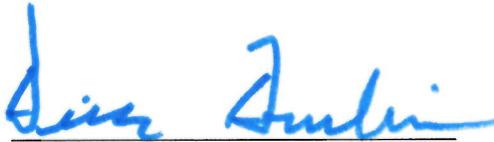
I understand that people in Metro East and the Corps have worked through the engineering differences that had once plagued and slowed the projects from moving forward. Cooperation among all parties is necessary for progress. In this particular case, the locals have taken the extraordinary step of taxing themselves to make these improvements. Communities willing to raise funds to make necessary improvements deserve heightened cooperation from the Corps.

At the same time, I am hopeful that the President's budget will include money to take some of the financial burden from the locals. In that case and for any other federal portion of the project, I encourage you to consider signing a Project Labor Agreement in the spirit of President Obama's February 2009 Executive Order. In his Order, President Obama recognized that these agreements can provide "structure and stability to large-scale construction projects, thereby promoting efficient and expeditious completion of Federal construction contracts."

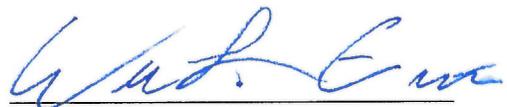
Ensuring with a Project Labor Agreement, to the extent possible, that local labor is used and that financial benefit from the federal spending stays in the Metro East community is important to local pride, the local economy, and to me. Accomplishing these objectives while not delaying completion of the project, will be a big win for Southern Illinois and the Federal Government.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



William Enyart  
United States Representative