

**COUNTY OF ALEXANDER**  
**Board of Commissioners**

2000 Washington Avenue

Cairo, Illinois 62914

November 18, 2013

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN:PM-E (Koontz)  
167 North Main Street  
Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Dear Mr. Koontz:

I am enclosing letters received in opposition to the New Madrid Floodway Levee Project from residents of Alexander County, Illinois.

Sincerely,



**Chalen Tatum**  
**Alexander County Board Member**

Enc

October 20, 2013

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: PM-E (Koontz)  
167 North Main Street  
Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Dear Mr. Koontz:

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Further, history shows that constructing the New Madrid levee will make it more difficult to activate the floodway to save communities during the next big flood. The Corps' delay in 2011 caused great hardship to many Illinois residents. In 2011, Missouri sued to stop use of the floodway, and the resulting delay has been implicated in the flooding of Olive Branch, Illinois. (After the floodway was activated in 2011, water levels at Cairo dropped 2.7 feet in just 48 hours.) Before that, in 1983, a lawsuit was filed that enjoined use of the floodway until April 1984. And before that, in 1937, the National Guard had to be called in to quell armed opposition to the floodway's use.

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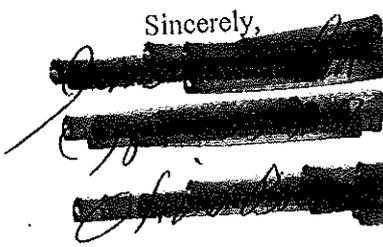
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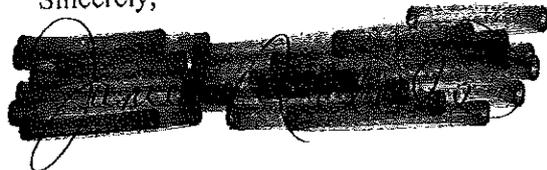
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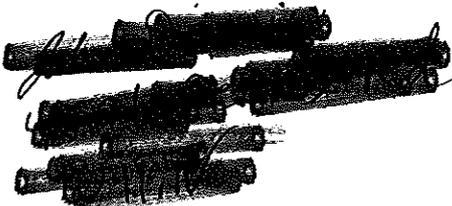
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The New Madrid Levee project threatens to put me and my neighbors in jeopardy. I urge the Corps to abandon its efforts to build the New Madrid Levee.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

October 20, 2013

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: PM-E (Koontz)  
167 North Main Street  
Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

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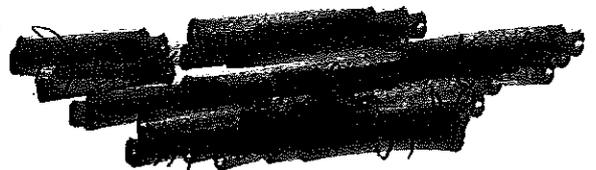
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[Redacted signature area]

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10/20/13 11:10

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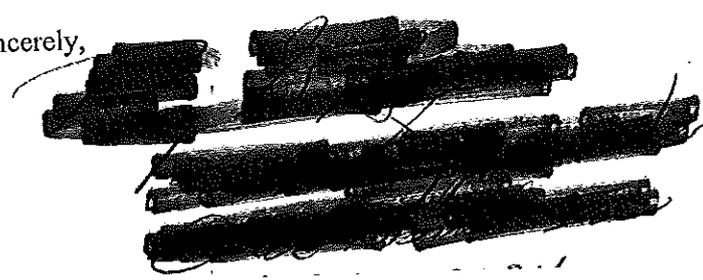
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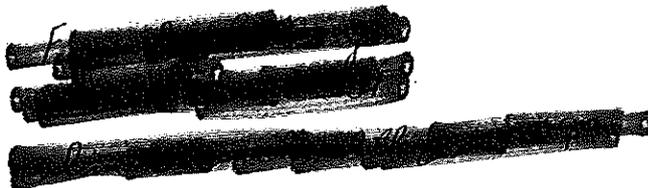
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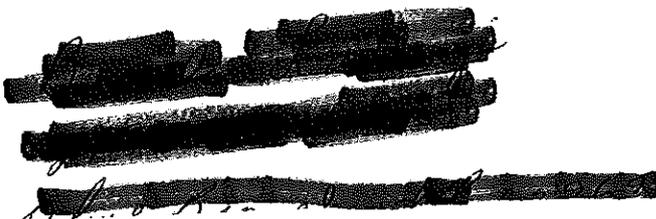
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[Date]

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167 North Main Street  
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Memphis, TN 38103-1894

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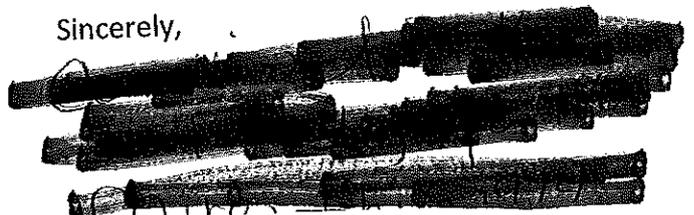
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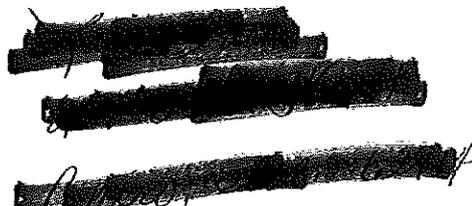
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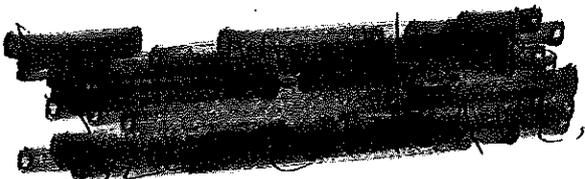
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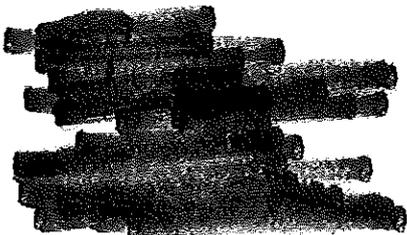
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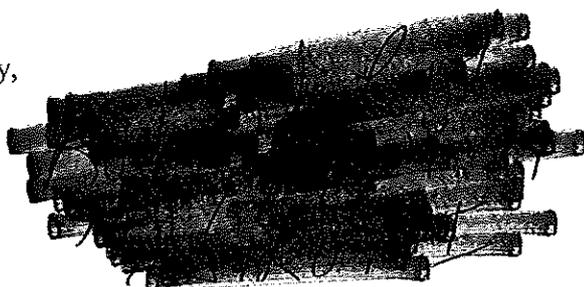
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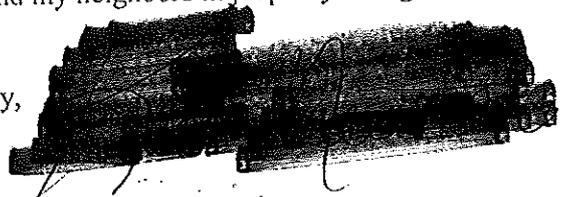
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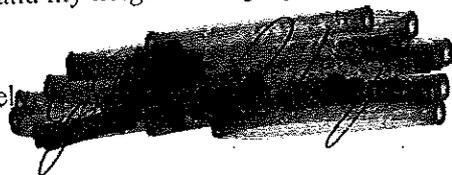
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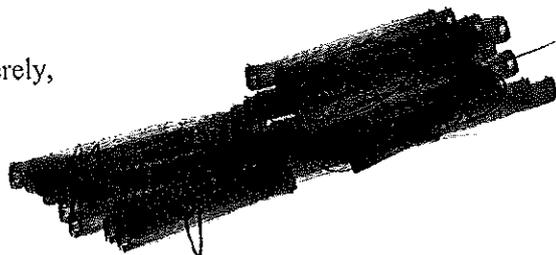
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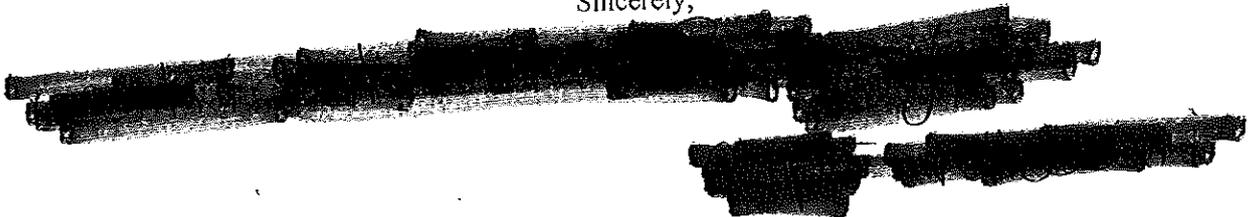
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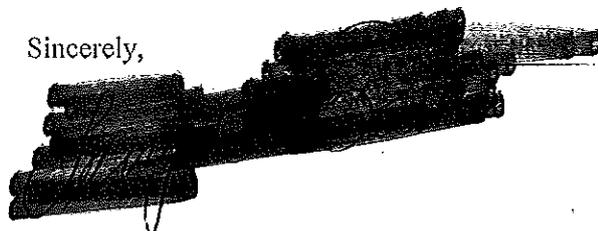
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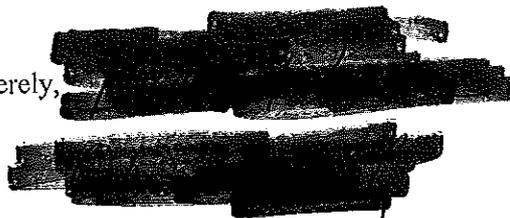
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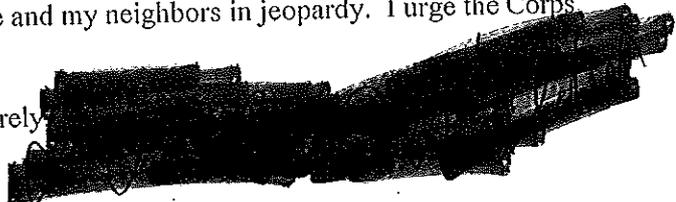
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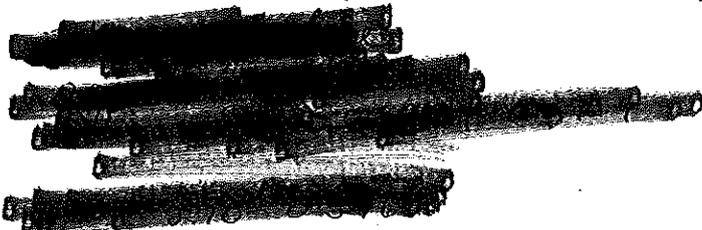
More seriously, this project, as proposed, places in jeopardy my safety and well-being along with that of many of the same neighboring communities and thousands of acres of highly productive farm lands flooded in 2011. Please recognize that farm land and homes in southern Illinois are just as valuable to our farmers as are the acres to farmers in Southeast Missouri and should receive the same respect as those who have come to assume a "false right" to control flood waters in the Birds Point area which continue to be earmarked as a Flood Way. Cutting off the Mississippi River from its floodplain in Missouri ignores the importance of the River's connection to the floodplain for the safety of neighboring communities, including Cairo, Metropolis, and Olive Branch in Illinois, and Paducah in Kentucky. The Mississippi River flood of 2011 showed that we need more connections between the Mississippi River and its floodplain, not fewer. These connections, which include the connection at New Madrid, provide critical relief valves during floods.

Further, history shows that constructing the New Madrid levee will make it more difficult to activate the floodway to save communities during the next big flood. The Corps' delay in 2011 caused great hardship to many Illinois residents. In 2011, Missouri sued to stop use of the floodway, and the resulting delay has been implicated in the flooding of Olive Branch, Illinois. (After the floodway was activated in 2011, water levels at Cairo dropped 2.7 feet in just 48 hours.) Before that, in 1983, a lawsuit was filed that enjoined use of the floodway until April 1984. And before that, in 1937, the National Guard had to be called in to quell armed opposition to the floodway's use.

In the draft impact statement the Corps has tried to show that the project will have little impact on flood heights. However, the Corps hasn't looked at the flood impacts of constructing the New Madrid levee on neighboring communities in almost twenty-five years. The only study it carried out on this was completed in 1989. Further, that outdated study used a 1950s era physical model to estimate the increase in water levels. The Corps needs to analyze the project's flood impacts using a modern model with modern data before it places neighboring communities in harms way.

The New Madrid Levee project threatens to put me and my neighbors in jeopardy. I urge the Corps to abandon its efforts to build the New Madrid Levee.

Sincerely,

A large, dark, irregularly shaped redaction mark covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

October 20, 2013

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: PM-E (Koontz)  
167 North Main Street  
Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

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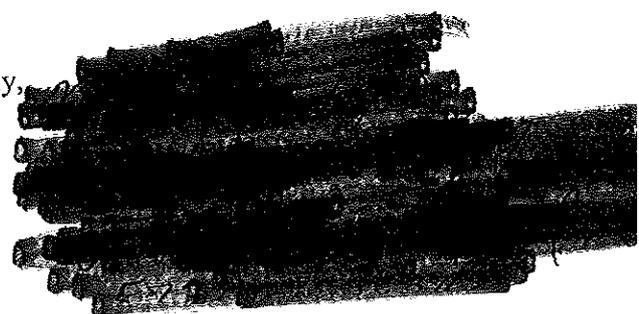
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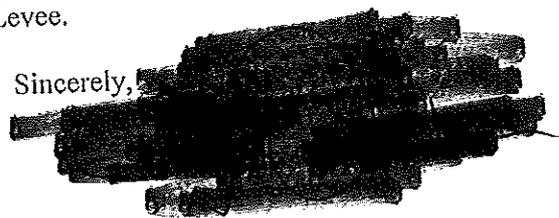
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