

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 28, 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Frist and Senator Reid:

Earlier this year, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved S. 728, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005 (WRDA). The devastation along the Gulf Coast has served as a warning to America to shore up our defenses against catastrophic floods. With these vivid images in mind, we urge you to grant floor time for this bill prior to the completion of this session of Congress.

As you know, this bill authorizes critical flood control, storm damage reduction, and environmental restoration projects across the country. These projects will help protect America's communities from the destruction caused by severe weather and flooding, as well as enhancing natural means of protection by restoring our fragile ecosystems.

In addition, this legislation is needed to support our nation's vital waterways and ports -- key components of our national transportation system and our economy.

Hurricane Katrina taught the nation a tragic lesson: maintain and improve our aging flood control and water resources infrastructure or risk the ruin and destruction of our communities. This bill moves us in the right direction toward addressing and preventing these grave threats to public safety.

It has been nearly five years since the last WRDA was enacted into law. America's water resources and the communities they serve cannot afford any further delay. We urge you to act expeditiously to bring this very important bill to the full Senate for immediate consideration.

Sincerely,





Clayton V. Vorinovich
Curtis

John Thuma
Robert Boyer

Jim Talent

P. L. Chfee

Mike Cryer

Tom Hark

Robert A. Neuhoff

Paul Sarbanes

Phil Hartung

Scott Womack

Norm Colson

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Janne Kristian

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Mary G. Landrau

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Pat Roberts

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Sam Brownback

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Ed Johnson

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Kay Bailey Hutchison
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Pat Roberts
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