



November 7, 2014

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G St., NW  
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick,

The National Corn Growers Association requests the Army Corps delay the mat-laying work along the Mississippi River. This closure of the Mississippi River, which was done with little notice to shippers, comes at a critical time for the grain industry. We fear the closure will result in significant delays of grain shipments with potential to create backups as long as 75 miles. A delay of this magnitude will have a significant financial impact on farmers, who already face prices below the cost of production.

U.S. corn farmers have produced a record crop in 2014, much of which will be transported along the Mississippi River. With winter approaching, it is imperative that barge traffic not be impeded so as to allow as much grain as possible to be transported before weather prevents such shipments.

We believe the Corps must consult with the shipping industry to arrange for this important work to be done at a time that would least impact the flow of barge traffic.

Sincerely,

Chip Bowling  
President, NCGA

Cc:

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairwoman  
Senate Environment & Public Works  
Committee

The Honorable David Vitter  
Ranking Member  
Senate Environment & Public Works  
Committee

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
House Transportation & Infrastructure  
Committee

The Honorable Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation & Infrastructure  
Committee