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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

COMMITTEES  
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AGING

January 21<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Honorable R.D. James  
Assistant Secretary for the Army – Civil Works  
Department of the Army  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Assistant Secretary James and Lieutenant General Semonite:

I am writing to express my sincere frustration with the Army Corps of Engineers' failure to repair the damages from the historic flooding which occurred along the Missouri River in 2019 and which threatens to strike again in 2020. The Corps has been trusted with the management of the Missouri River and the people who live and work along the river need your help.

Since the flooding I have been in regular contact with my constituents, whose lives have been upended by these floods, and have seen too little progress on recovery. The Corps update on the status of levee rehabilitation dated January 8, 2020, does not show construction even having begun - much less completed - on 67 levee projects.<sup>1</sup> This is unacceptable.

The National Weather Service is anticipating high levels of precipitation throughout the spring flood season.<sup>2</sup> The forecast looks grim and many Missourians are left without flood protection – leaving them exposed. Due to your inaction, some of my constituents are planning to act on their own to provide at least some level of protection for their homes and businesses. What are you planning to do to protect the vital work of Missouri farmers who are facing decisions about the 2020 planting season?

Missourians were significantly impacted in the floods of 2019 and there's been little done to protect Missourians in 2020. Here are a few questions Missourians deserve answers on:

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<sup>1</sup> United States Army Corps of Engineers. (2020, January 10). *Levee Rehabilitation*. Retrieved from Kansas City District Website: <https://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Management/Levee-Rehabilitation/>

<sup>2</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (2019, December 19). *Climate Prediction Center*. Retrieved from National Weather Service: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

- How are you preparing existing levee breaches for the flood risks faced in the spring of 2020?
- What temporary structures or measures could benefit those regions currently exposed by levee breaches?
- What is the plan to improve flood control on the Missouri River for 2021, 2022, and beyond?

I, along with all Missourians, expect to see a sense of urgency to finish repairs and restore flood control as the top priority for the management of the river so the communities along the Missouri can recover and thrive - without fear - for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley  
United States Senator