



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DENNIS DAUGAARD, GOVERNOR

November 16, 2018

The Honorable Senator John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Representative Kristi Noem
2422 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator M. Michael Rounds
Russell Senate Courtyard 4
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Thune and Rounds and Congresswoman Noem,

I want to thank you all for your efforts to help protect South Dakota's Missouri River water. For example, in the recently passed America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, language was inserted to extend the ten-year moratorium on water storage fees by another two years. Language was also inserted to direct the US Army Corps of Engineers to follow a more prescriptive access easement approval process for those who apply for an easement to use Missouri River water.

Even more recently, language was included in the FY2019 House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill [Report](#), which includes (on page 60) the following language: Surplus Water.— The Committee urges the Corps to consider adoption of the alternative definition of “surplus water” excluding “natural flows” from stored water in the Missouri River mainstem reservoirs in its proposed rule entitled “Use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reservoir Projects for Domestic, Municipal & Industrial Water Supply” (82 F.R. 9555).” This language also appeared in the FY2018 Energy and Water Appropriations Report.

While we have not yet killed the Corps' efforts begun under President Obama to steal nearly all of the state's water in the Missouri River, you have certainly kept the issue alive with these amendments and suggestions. As you well know, the Missouri River is the largest, highest quality, and most reliable surface water supply in the state. Consequently, I am convinced the Corps' proposed Water Supply Rule is one of the greatest threats to South Dakota being able to manage its own future and it needs to be killed.

Thank you again, and if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

Dennis Daugaard

DD:rg

cc: Attorney General Marty Jackley
Representative-elect Dusty Johnson
Attorney General-Elect Jason Ravensborg