

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 4, 2016

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
Department of the Army, Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Secretary Darcy:

We are writing to express support for the Kansas River Basin Study to investigate water resources problems and opportunities within the Kansas River Basin, and recommend comprehensive long term solutions. We know that there are significant needs as well as opportunities existing in the areas of flood risk management, water supply availability and sustainment, including sediment management, drought preparedness, habitat restoration, and other related purposes.

It is our understanding that the Kansas Water Office has submitted in writing their interest to serve as a sponsor for the study, including intent to sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement.

At the most recent Tri-State Water Conference in April of 2016, involving Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and the Corps' Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions, the Director of the Kansas Water Office expressed strong support for this critical study, and the Governor of Kansas' Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas provides a foundation for an even more robust partnership. As part of the Vision and state water planning process, Regional Advisory Committees made up of local stakeholders in the Kansas basin have identified both near term and long term projects and goals, and wholeheartedly support this study to address critical issues such as sediment management and reservoir operations. Many of these issues identified align with the Chief of Engineer's emphasis on proactive drought preparedness in an era of increasing climate uncertainty, and the previous ASA-CW's recommendation that the state pursue a study of this type to address their water resource issues.

With all this in mind, we support the allocations of General Investigations funds for a new start study, and look forward to the prospect of future water planning discussions. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff members should you require any additional information. For Senator Moran, contact Will Ruder at William_ruder@moran.senate.gov. For Senator Roberts, contact Will Stafford at Will_stafford@roberts.senate.gov. For Congresswoman Jenkins, please contact Adam York at adam.york@mail.house.gov.

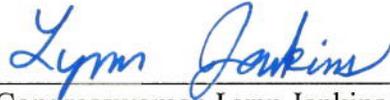
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Senator Jerry Moran (KS)



Senator Pat Roberts (KS)



Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (KS-02)

JM:wr