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**United States Senate**  
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July 24, 2013

Mr. William Vodehnal  
201 East Florence Street  
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Dear William:

Thank you for contacting me regarding H.R. 1460 and funding for the Missouri River Authorized Purpose Study (MRAPS). I appreciate having the benefit of your views.

As you know, Representative Sam Graves (R-MO) introduced H.R. 1460 on April 10, 2013. This legislation would allow the Chief Engineer of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to revise the Missouri Mainstream Reservoir System Master Water Control Manual. The changes to the manual in H.R. 1460 would remove fish and wildlife as an authorized purpose of ACE's management of the Missouri River. H.R. 1460 was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. No companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate.

You also mentioned funding for the completion of MRAPS. The Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-8) authorized and enacted funding for MRAPS. However, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-331) included a provision that barred funding for MRAPS for fiscal year 2012 (FY2012). Subsequently, this provision was extended for FY2013 in the Continuing Resolution which was signed into law by President Obama on March 26, 2013. Furthermore, ACE did not include a request to fund MRAPS in their FY2014 budget request.

On July 10, 2013 the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2609, the FY2014 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Apportions bill by a vote of 227 to 198. This bill includes a provision to prohibit funding for MRAPS and allocates \$4.9 billion in funding for ACE. On June 27, 2013 the Senate Appropriations Committee approved FY2014 energy and water appropriations bill by a vote of 24 to 6. This bill includes \$5.3 billion for ACE for FY2014 and urges the Obama Administration to fund MRAPS for FY2014.

You may be interested to know that at the beginning of the 113th Congress, I was appointed to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, which has jurisdiction over ACE funding levels. The energy and water appropriations bills must pass both chambers, be reconciled, and signed into law, before ACE funding levels can be enacted.

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I take seriously the responsibility to protect and preserve our natural resources, including our vital bodies of water. As Governor and Secretary of Agriculture I took seriously my responsibility to oversee natural resources and conservation programs. However, I am also mindful that our country's total national debt is now approaching \$17 trillion. The cost of bearing such a high debt will swallow up our nation's resources and leave the next generation a standard of prosperity lower than our own if we don't take action to reduce spending.

Thanks again for sharing your opinions with me. It's a great honor to represent our state and I take seriously the thoughts and ideas conveyed by fellow Nebraskans. Please feel free to visit my website at [www.johanns.senate.gov](http://www.johanns.senate.gov) and sign-up for my e-Updates if you'd like to know more about my work in the Senate.

Very truly yours,



Mike Johanns  
United States Senator