



# Great Rivers Habitat Alliance

June 2, 2016

**Board of Directors:**

James T. Blair, IV, Chairman  
Andrew Spann, President  
Patrick Wittenbrink, Secretary  
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Richard C. Holton, Jr.  
Chris Hyams  
Don C. Musick, III  
Nick Reding  
Doug Sansone  
Jason Schnuck  
Philip von Gontard

**Executive Director:**

David Stokes

**The Honorable Roy Blunt**  
United States Senate  
7700 Bonhomme Ave.  
Suite 315  
St. Louis, MO 63105

**Dear Senator Blunt:**

Great Rivers Habitat Alliance was founded sixteen years ago to fight for floodplain, wetlands, and habitat conservation along the Confluence of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois rivers. Our organization is supported by conservationists and sportsmen who are dedicated to preserving our region's historic river heritage.

We are writing you to express our concerns about the Water Resources and Development Act of 2016 (WRDA) being considered by the United States Congress. Our particular concern in the bill is the potential for the legislation to allow improperly constructed levees that have been built higher than their legal limits to be allowed to continue uncorrected.

According to studies and reports, the Sny Island Levee and Drainage District along the Mississippi River in Illinois has increased the height of its levees without authorization in recent years. Those unjustifiably high levees are sending flood water improperly onto Missouri lands in Pike County, Lincoln County, and other Missouri locations. Section 4010 of WRDA authorizes the development of a new, comprehensive flood management plan. While there is nothing wrong with that, subsection D in section 4010 grants authorities the right to approve new plans based on "system-wide benefits" instead of the standard analyses that has long been required. Those who follow this issue closely fear that language will be used to allow Sny Island to continue with its unacceptable levee heights and the resulting damage that it will bring to Missouri homes, farms, and recreational sites.

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P.O. Box 50014  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
314-918-1007

[www.grha.org](http://www.grha.org)

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Sincerely,

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David Stokes  
Executive Director  
Great Rivers Habitat Alliance

Enclosure

CC: Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
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Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers Association  
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Philip von Gontard

**Executive Director:**

David Stokes

**The Honorable Claire McCaskill**  
**United States Senate**  
5850 Delmar Blvd.  
Suite A  
St. Louis, MO 63112

**Dear Senator McCaskill:**

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**Executive Director:**

David Stokes

**The Honorable Jason Smith**  
United States House of Representatives  
2502 Tanner Dr.  
Suite 205  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Dear Congressman Smith:

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**Executive Director:**

David Stokes

The Honorable Ann Wagner  
United States House of Representatives  
301 Sovereign Court  
Suite 201  
St. Louis, MO 63011

Dear Congresswoman Wagner:

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**Executive Director:**

David Stokes

The Honorable Sam Graves  
United States House of Representatives  
906 Broadway  
PO Box 364  
Hannibal, MO 63401

Dear Congressman Graves:

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**Executive Director:**

David Stokes

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
United States House of Representatives  
113 East Pearce Blvd.  
Wentzville, MO 63385

Dear Congressman Luetkemeyer:

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**Executive Director:**

David Stokes

**The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay**  
**United States House of Representatives**  
**111 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Suite 24.344**  
**St. Louis, MO 63102**

Dear Congressman Clay:

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