

The U.S. Congress Continues to Make Clear Its Support for RDFW

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2003

Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers
Chief of Engineers
HQ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear General Flowers:

We are writing to call your attention to a provision included in the recently approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Report language included in this legislation endorses efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to utilize funds from its Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies account for the purchase of the Rapid Deployment Flood Wall (RDFW).

As you know, we are strong proponents of the RDFW technology. Each year, the federal government spends billions of dollars in emergency flood relief operations, relying heavily on sandbags as the primary means of immediate flood protection. RDFW technology has the potential to save your agency and our nation's taxpayers millions of dollars annually in flood preparation and cleanup costs.

Developed through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement between Geocell Systems, Inc. and the Corps, RDFW has received widespread support from Corps officials nationwide. The Corps' Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi, has conducted successful testing of this RDFW. The Little Rock and Nashville districts have purchased sample amounts of the RDFW, and districts in numerous other states continue to express interest in purchasing the technology. Unfortunately, these districts lack the funds to purchase sufficient supplies of the RDFW.

It is much easier and cost-effective to prevent a flood than it is to fight one. The Mississippi River and Tributaries System (MR&T), created in the wake of the Great Flood of 1927, has cost taxpayers \$10 billion, but has saved them nearly \$180 billion in flood damages. Likewise, Corps studies confirm that usage of RDFW in long, flat stretches of ground in emergencies is an excellent flood control strategy. By abiding by the will of Congress and purchasing RDFW technology, the Corps will gain a valuable flood control tool that is versatile, reusable and easily constructed.

Enclosed, please find the report language from the legislation referenced above. With the direction from Congress included in the language, we are hopeful Corps districts will soon be able to utilize RDFW. Any help you can provide in communicating and

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facilitating congressional intent so that RDFW technology is made available to the districts would be greatly appreciated.

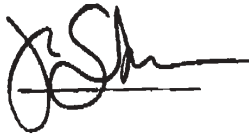
Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Kenny Hulshof
R-MO



John Shimkus
R-IL



Todd Akin
R-MO



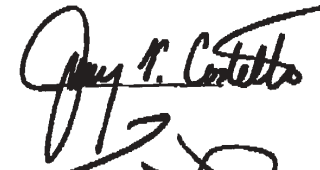
Sam Graves
R-MO



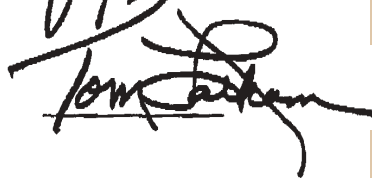
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