

U.S. Senator Jean Carnahan Has Expressed Strong Support for Geocell's Rapid Deployment Flood Wall in the Fiscal Year 2003 Federal Budget

JEAN CARNAHAN
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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TRANSPORTATION
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SMALL BUSINESS AND
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

July 18, 2002

The Honorable Harry Reid
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development
SD-127
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete Domenici
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development
SD-127
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Reid and Ranking Member Domenici:

As you prepare to finalize the Energy and Water Appropriations for FY 2003, I would like to request that you include \$2.5 million in funding under P.L. 84-99 authority to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to establish a pilot project utilizing the Rapid Deployment Flood Wall (RDFW) in the field. It is my understanding that at least two Corps Districts have requested this material to date, and they are anxious to have this product available in the event of further flooding. Providing the Corps with funds specifically targeted for the deployment of RDFW will make this product more accessible to those in the field who must respond to emergency flood situations.

Each year, our nation spends billions of dollars in emergency flood relief operations, relying heavily on sandbags as the primary means of immediate flood protection. Unfortunately, sandbag technology is outdated and our continued dependence on sandbags is putting our communities at ever increasing risk. As someone who represents a state whose citizens are all too familiar with floods, I am want to make every tool available that will aid the Corps and my constituents when the flood waters begin to rise.

The Rapid Deployment Flood Wall (RDFW) is an innovative new flood-fighting technology that is specifically designed to replace or augment sandbags during flood emergencies. RDFW is an expandable, stackable, modular wall made out of a tough, lightweight, environmentally responsible plastic that can be filled with sand and other locally available fill material for use as a flood protection wall. RDFW is a dramatic improvement in flood fighting technology that is cost-effective, requires less manpower, provides higher levels of flood protection, and can be deployed much faster than protective sandbag walls.

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RDFW is the result of a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement between Geocell Systems Inc. and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps' Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi conducted extensive analysis, which resulted in successful testing of Geocell's RDFW. This technology has the potential to save the federal government billions of dollars annually in flood-fighting and cleanup costs as well as saving billions more by providing superior protection for property and most importantly, lives.

It is my hope that you will provide the necessary funding for this innovative new flood protection technology that will improve our ability to prevent the devastation of flooding in communities throughout this country. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Jean Carnahan



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