



March 6, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

We are writing on behalf of the Missouri Water Center to express our strong support for this project aimed at modeling and visualizing Missouri River.

The Missouri and Mississippi Rivers are vital economic arteries that support a significant portion of Missouri's economy in a variety of ways. These include inland navigation, water resources for drinking water and agriculture, recreation such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching, power generation, and essential ecosystem services. The development of an advanced 2D/3D river model for the full Lower Missouri River will provide river managers and stakeholders with critical insights and the ability to conduct scenario analyses essential for informed management decisions and effective emergency response during major flood events. This project will directly benefit Missouri's 6th Congressional District, especially basin communities with extensive agricultural operations and river-based industries.

We greatly appreciate your leadership and vision, and we respectfully request your support for this appropriations request. We are excited about the potential to implement this project in support of rural communities along the lower Missouri River. The Missouri Water Center team has visited the Center for River Studies at Louisiana State University and the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, Mississippi, where we learned valuable best practices in river modeling and explored potential collaborations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working together to advance this critical project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Baolin Deng
Co-Director, Missouri Water Center

Dr. Kate Nelson
Co-Director, Missouri Water Center