



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY  
65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720  
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November 21, 2013

The Honorable Sam Brownback  
Governor  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 2128  
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Brownback:

I have been made aware of the Kansas Water Office's intention to commence a study regarding the feasibility of constructing an aqueduct to divert 4 million acre feet of Missouri River water to Western Kansas. Even assuming that such a project would be financially feasible, such a diversion would adversely impact Missouri. I am opposed to this diversion, and therefore request that you direct the Kansas Water Office to reconsider the planned study of this ill-advised project.

The Missouri River is a resource that is vital to Missouri's way of life and our economy. From supplying drinking water supply to our communities to bringing agricultural and other goods to markets throughout the world, the River is the lifeblood of numerous Missouri communities. We have worked for many years, and fought many legal battles, to ensure that the River is managed properly. Thoughtful and reasoned discussion and cooperation, rather than unilateral plans for massive diversions, must be the guiding forces in planning for the River's use.

Proponents of this diversion suggest that it would not impact downriver users, citing past years in which flooding along the River has occurred. There have certainly been years in which Missourians have suffered the effects of floods, both naturally occurring and induced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's unnecessary and unjustified "spring rise" and other mismanagement, most recently in 2011. But there have also been years, like 2012, in which crippling drought has threatened drinking water supplies for Missouri communities and hampered the ability of Missouri agricultural producers and shippers feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

Both of our states would benefit from a more global discussion of the future use of the Missouri River, particularly in relation to the River's use – and misuse – in upriver states. I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you in this regard. In the meantime, however, neither of our states is well-served by the approach exemplified by this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor