

31 March, 2015

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Sirs:

This letter is in regard to your public notice dated March 13 2015 regarding permits requested by Capital Sand Company, Inc., Hermann Sand and Gravel, Inc., Holiday Sand & Gravel Company, Con-Agg of Missouri, LLC, and J.T.R., Inc.

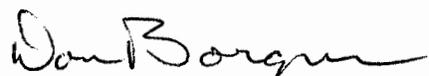
Commercial sand dredgers provide the sand for the construction industry. That sand is used for the concrete that goes into transportation infrastructure as well as the sidewalks, driveways and foundations of homes and business infrastructure in Missouri and Kansas. I know two people in the small scale farm/home concrete business and when I lived in Kansas I had a neighbor who worked for a commercial concrete supplier in Kansas City. They say Missouri River sand is of a high quality and makes the concrete better and less expensive than sand that is harvested from quarries away from the river.

Dredging has been occurring on the Missouri River long before the Corps was tasked with bank stabilization and navigation. In fact, my forbearers told stories of using mules and slips to harvest sand from the Missouri river adjacent to our farm near Levasy at the turn of the century for use in construction of foundations for everything from houses and barns to churches and schools.

I serve as an Agricultural Stakeholder on the Missouri River Recovery Implementation committee and it is my understanding the dredgers have generally complied with permit requirements previously issued by the Corps. The new permits provide accommodation for the endangered pallid sturgeon and the dredging operators present no other impacts to other endangered or threatened species.

With all the pressures on government budgets, having a high quality, low-cost source of sand for Missouri's roads and bridges is critical to all of us who must move products on the state's highways as well as the government agencies tasked with managing tighter budgets. It is critical to my farming operation to have competitive transportation options for my grain. Additionally, the dredgers are strong members of the business community and provide employment and pay taxes.

I strongly support the reissuances of permits by the Corps to the commercial sand dredgers on the Missouri River.



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