

July 5, 2010

Honorable Senator Conrad  
Federal Building  
657 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N.  
Fargo, ND 58102

Honorable Senator Conrad:

The City of Lisbon is very concerned about the Devils Lake Flooding Disaster. This is a very serious situation for the city and other cities and homeowners in and along the Sheyenne River. The possibility of 10,000 CFS being released on a daily basis for a period of up to ninety (90) days would be devastating to the entire area.

In the year 2009, Lisbon saw unprecedented flooding, with the Sheyenne River reaching a record 22.84 feet, which was a release of 9,000 CFS from Devils Lake. Our community, along with many other volunteers too numerous to mention, was able to save our city from possible disaster. In 2010, we were faced with a similar situation. We had to rebuild levees, when forecasts predicted the same river levels as 2009. We were spared many of the problems we faced in 2009 only because the weather was perfect for our flood fight.

The many volunteers, many who lost income to join the flood efforts, came back to aid our city. We feel it is time for permanent solutions to these ongoing events. Our city engineer is compiling a feasibility study in an effort to ensure that permanent levees can be constructed for future flooding. Volunteers are becoming exhausted with the repetitive flood fight. We cannot rely on volunteers year after year.

Currently, seventeen homes are being considered for possible buy outs. We understand the frustrations of these homeowners, some wishing to stay in their homes, some waiting for a buyout. However, this could cause significant impact to the City of Lisbon's tax base. The loss of tax base will affect our city, school, park, library, and fire district for years to come. Furthermore, the loss of homes, could adversely affect our population and economic growth as a whole.

We have been working on improvements to our infrastructure that in the past has been affected by high river levels and/or flood situations. The improvement is necessary, but as you is aware, is very costly.

With the above being stated, the City of Lisbon encourages you to visit Lisbon and requests your immediate aid to deal with the flood situation which could become a great detriment to our community, along with much of southeast North Dakota.

We feel a controlled outlet release is extremely necessary for Devils Lake and the entire Sheyenne River Valley.

Your utmost attention to this mater would be gratefully appreciated.

Yours truly,

L. Ross Cole, Mayor, City of Lisbon

