

Missouri Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST)

c/o John L. Cooper, Chairman
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November 3, 2006

Brigadier General Gregg F. Martin
Commander, Northwestern Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Dear General Martin:

We want to thank the Army Corps of Engineers for providing the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Framework for Establishing the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC). The members of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST) understand the need to develop a strong framework for MRRIC. Without a strong framework there is little chance that the Federal Working Group will be able to implement changes that will aid in the recovery of the Missouri River ecosystem.

We also want to thank your staff members who took the time to meet with us at our inaugural meeting of MoRAST in Denver, Colorado on September 1, 2006. At that meeting they provided a complete briefing on the proposed framework. Following the briefing, the MoRAST members present voted to draft a letter to the Corps of Engineers specifically requesting the proposed MRRIC Planning Committee make up from state government be increased to two members per state.

Consequently, we recommend each State have two representatives on the planning committee. The States represent a broader range of interests and responsibilities associated with the Missouri River than the other stakeholder groups. MoRAST does not believe a single staff member can adequately speak for the varied interest of the State(s) in the process.

Sincerely,

John L. Cooper, Chairman
Missouri River Association of States and Tribes

JLC:pw

cc: Colonel David Press
Larry Cieslik-COE-Reservoir Control