

RODNEY ALEXANDER
5TH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON
316 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8490
FAX: (202) 225-5639



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND WATER
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 9, 2011

Mr. William J. Murphy
Administrator, Risk Management Agency
United States Department of Agriculture

Dear Mr. Murphy:

As the waters of the Mississippi River and its tributaries rise higher by the hour, and the imminent flooding that is likely to ravage our farms looms, I write to you today to express my deepest concerns for the welfare of those who have worked so hard to produce the crops that will possibly be destroyed.

Because a lost harvest can be devastating to farm communities, insurance exists to protect the farmers whose lives depend upon the revenue from the sales of their crops; when a natural disaster, such as severe flooding, occurs and destroys lucrative harvests, insurance subsidizes the affected farmers' losses.

Under present circumstances, however, there is cause for concern that insurance claims may not be distributed to those whose crops are destroyed. Many affected farmlands may be flooded from rising river waters, in addition to the opening of man-made structures—in particular the Morganza Spillway—to relieve stress and flooding from other points. If flooding occurs in communities and farmlands after the human opening of man-made structures, I fear that insurance companies could claim that these particular floods were not the result of natural disaster but rather from the actions of men, and therefore use the loophole to decline flood claims to those who are insured. This, of course, would be a moral catastrophe on top of a natural one, especially considering that much of this land would flood regardless of whether floodgates are opened.

I ask that you exercise all necessary discretion, judgment, and oversight to ensure that any damages incurred by our hardworking farmers are covered by insurance they have responsibly purchased, and that insurance companies uphold their legal and moral obligations and not cite loopholes in policy in order to deprive farmers of insurance money to which they are entitled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney Alexander".

Rodney Alexander
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

ALEXANDRIA
1412 CENTRE COURT, SUITE 402
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301
(318) 445-0818
FAX: (318) 445-3776

MONROE
1900 STUBBS AVENUE, SUITE B
MONROE, LA 71201
(318) 322-3500
FAX: (318) 322-3577