

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-218, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Chairman
Room 2362-B Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David L. Hobson
Ranking Member
2346 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Obey and Visclosky, and Ranking Members Lewis and Hobson:

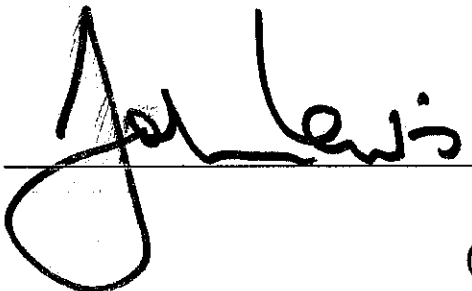
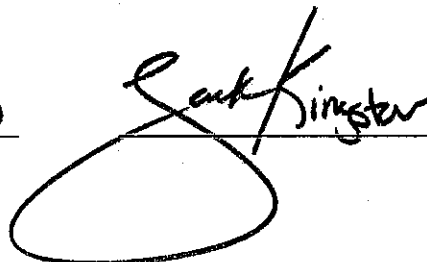
We are writing to express our strong opposition to Section 112 of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2008 which has been included in the Report Accompanying the Omnibus.

This obstructionist language is unproductive and hurts the chances for a resolution to the ongoing water conflict between the states of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. Specifically, this language would prohibit updating U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' water control manuals for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa Rivers (ACT). These water control manuals have not been revised for decades and in the face of such a devastating drought scenario, it is crucial that the Army Corps of Engineers have the most up-to-date data possible to make water management decisions that affect the lives of millions of citizens throughout Georgia and the southeastern United States.

The state of Georgia is experiencing the worst drought in our history. The lack of rain, combined with current outdated water management plans for our river systems, has left some of Georgia's citizens counting the days until they run out of water. This type of scenario is unacceptable. We strongly believe that updates to the Corps' water control manuals for the ACT and ACF River Basins are in the best interest of all parties involved and in helping to move toward a resolution of this conflict.

This is a matter of the utmost importance to the Members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation and we appreciate your timely efforts to ensure that this section does not appear in the final Omnibus package.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Lewis", written over a horizontal line.A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Kingston", written over a horizontal line.