United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 9, 2013

Lt. General Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
US Army Corps of Engineers
411 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear General Bostick:

As you know the Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation (ORHF) and the Little Rock District Office of the United States Army Corps of Engineers signed a Cooperative Management Lease on May 27, 2011.

This agreement set forth the partnership arrangement between the Corps of Engineers and ORHF under which the Foundation would provide auxiliary services to the Corps of Engineers, specifically at Table Rock Lake, situated in the Branson, Missouri area. Subsequent to the Cooperative Agreement being put in place, the Corps of Engineers leased eight recreation areas and the portions of the Dewey Short Visitors Center to ORHF. The fees collected by ORHF from the campers and other users of the recreation areas are to be spent by ORHF on Corps property/projects at Table Rock Lake. This Cooperative Agreement and subsequent lease arrangements has been hailed as the pattern which other Corps lake projects should follow in developing local partnerships and it is our understanding that ORHF has returned over $1.5 million in value to the Corps project at Table Rock Lake.

Recently, it has come to our attention that the Corps of Engineers is reevaluating the Cooperative Management Lease. We understand that the Corps is set to indicate that the lease exceeds the Corp's statutory authority.

However, it is our understanding that the legal authority to enter into these agreements was vetted and deemed to be legal at the Corps of Engineers Headquarters level prior to the agreements being signed.

Given this apparent shift in interpretation we request you take no action involving the Cooperative Agreement with the Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation until your office provides our offices with a through briefing of the situation.

Sincere regards,

Roy Blunt
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

cc: Colonel Courtney W. Paul,
Brig. General Thomas W. Kula