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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 2014

TODD ROKITA
4TH DISTRICT, INDIANA
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE
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Scott Pruitt
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
620 South Walker Street
Bloomington, IN 47403

Dear Supervisor Pruitt,

I am writing to seek further clarification on the data used to determine that 500 cubic feet per second is the necessary flow to sufficiently cover the endangered mussels in the Tippecanoe River. I appreciate your willingness to work with my office and other stakeholders on this issue during this difficult period.

I first want to express my thanks for your quick responsiveness to my August 5 letter and your work helping to create what is hopefully a viable, longer term solution. In a time where many in our federal government tend to be highly partisan and inflexible, I appreciate your desire to reach a reasonable compromise.

While we have made progress towards a longer term solution, I believe we must continue to explore other short term methods to provide relief, while maintaining compliance with federal law. Moving the Delphi gauge closer to the Oakdale Dam is a great example of innovative ways to provide immediate help, but more needs to be done.

As I continue seeking a short term solution to the situation on Lake Freeman, I would appreciate responses to the following requests and questions:

- I request that you furnish my office with the test results, data, and analysis used by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to conclude that 500 cubic feet per second is the necessary flow to ensure the various species of endangered mussels located below the Oakdale Dam are adequately protected.
- I ask that you provide my office with an analysis of how the various species at issue were determined to be endangered, how successful efforts to recover them have been, and how long you estimate before they may be taken off the endangered list.
- I have heard concerns from constituents about the current river flow compared to historical flows. Please address how the flow of the river, according to the Technical Assistance Letter, compares with pre-dam flows and post-dam flows.

- Additionally, please provide a summary of how the flow has changed in the last 100 years and what factors have contributed to that change.

Again, while I appreciate and support the efforts towards a viable, long-term solution contained in the recent Technical Assistance Letter, we must continue to look for ways to address the immediate challenges still faced by the community around Lake Freeman. I appreciate your cooperation with the requests above, and ask for an agency response within ten business days. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Rokita", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

TER/ct

Cc: Director Daniel Ashe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service