

To: Laura Hicks,

As past chair of the Bridgeton Neighborhood Association, all too often I have seen my neighbors subject to sweeping changes made by the federal government without either sufficient notice or public involvement. From removing trees along to levy to changing the flood maps without notice to now proposing a wall in the middle of our main thoroughfare, the impacts are severe. I thank you and the USACE for encouraging public input on your recent proposed efforts to improve the safety of the levee.

While I welcome and applaud the improvements USACE has proposed, I urge you to consider how the lives of the people who reside there will be affected. This is a neighborhood of people, of families, of individuals who have invested a significant portion of their assets to their homes and their surroundings.

I agree with the recommendations the current board of the Bridgeton Neighborhood Association has offered, and sincerely hope that you not only take them into consideration, but that you implement many of the ideas.

Additionally, I welcome you and other USACE leaders spend time in the neighborhood to get a better understanding of how a three- to five-foot wall down the middle of the road would affect the daily activities of the people who live there. I am sure the board would welcome such a prolonged visit.

Please remember that the homes along the road and the levee system were allowed by multiple jurisdictions. While I understand that as time moves forward, we all reserve the right to get smarter about what we do, I also know that Bridgeton is not a throwaway place. This is our home and our neighborhood; we urge you to consider us as more sweeping changes are proposed.

Again I thank you for reaching out to our neighborhood regarding the proposed plans to improve safety along the levee.

Sincerely,

Karen Kane
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