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## Letter from Representative Burdick to Gerhard Stenerson Regarding Garrison Dam Pool Level, July 15, 1949

Usher L. Burdick  
*United States House of Representatives*

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July 15, 1949

Gerhard Stenerson, Local Sec'y  
Van Hook Farmers Union Local  
Van Hook, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Stenerson,

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your views on the Garrison Dam, and the farm parity legislation.

I have been working on legislation that would prevent the army engineers from acquiring any land above the 1830 foot level, and prohibit them from taking any land below that figure until it was absolutely needed. I have been particularly critical of the way the army engineers have been treating the farm land owners in North Dakota, and I assure you that I have been doing everything possible to remedy this situation.

The Hoover Commission has recommended that the functions of the army engineers be transferred to an appropriate civilian agency, which would probably be the bureau of reclamation in the Interior Department. I am in complete agreement with this recommendation. We know that the river development would work at a faster pace if it were under one agency. I still think that the creation of M. V. A. would be the best way to do the job.

When the Brannen farm program comes up for debate next week, I will do everything I possibly can to see that it is enacted into law. Will you kindly see that this message is conveyed to as many of your members as is possible.

Yours very truly,

ULB:jcw

Usher L. Burdick, m.c