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Letter from Representative Burdick to Gunther Harms Regarding the Taking of Harms's Land for Garrison Dam, November 16, 1953

Usher L. Burdick
United States House of Representatives

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November 16, 1953

Williston, N. Dak.

Mr. Gunther Harms
Keene, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Harms:

I have your letter of November 7 with reference to your troubles with the Army engineers and also the "cancellation" of old feed and seed loan debts by the Congress.

I was in the front ranks in the fight for cancellation of the feed and seed loan debts and it passed the House twice only to end up stuck in the Senate. I have no control over what they do on the Senate side but it looks like I have done my part which I promised to do.

I have battled the Army engineers for 12 years now and they have finally let off the high water dam. I am informed that they are right now selling all that they can above the 1840 level which was purchased earlier, and not buying any more. This means that the water level will be fixed at 1830 with an extra 10 feet of shore line lands held in reserve of unexpected floods. If your land is above 1840 they probably will try to sell it back, or if you haven't sold they will probably write you saying that they don't want this high level land.

Of course, I will have to keep an eye on these Army engineers and see that they hold to their bargain. I am glad to have your letter and I hope that I have given you the information you need.

Sincerely,

Usher L. Burdick, M.C.