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## Letter from Nate Olds et al. to Senator Langer Regarding Erosion Along Missouri River Downstream of Garrison Dam, February 1, 1955

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February 1, 1955.

Hon. Senator William Langer,  
Washington, D.D.

Dear Mr. Langer,

We are writing you as a group of farmers who own land along the Missouri River, about 7 miles by river below the Garrison Dam. This Dam is being built by the Army Engineers as you know for the Benefit of many people above the Dam and as a measure to insure safety as to flood control lower on the River, this is all very well, but it seems that we who live directly below the Outlet of the Dam, seem to be the forgotten Men, in this great structure.

It appears that our land is being washed away during the winter, in that to our idea is caused by the dropping and raising of the Dam level. This seems to us to be one of the reasons that our land is being eroded so that some of us have lost from 50 to 60 acres of good land. Several farmers have lost as much or more. And it seems that the rest of us are in direct line to loose more land latter. It appears that the West Bank of the river is taking a severe beating, and it has seemed to be a lot worse since the water has been shut of or increased from the outlet of the Dam.

Some of us are now paying taxes on a whole 160 acres when we have just a small fraction of this land, left. We feel that we are being unjustly taken advantage of in this deal. When the river was allowed to take its own course we were never in as much danger of loosing so much land.

It seems to us that an extensive Rip Rapping project is the only means of saving our land. Altho we are not engineers and really have no ideas as how to correct the situation, so that is the reason that we are writing you, knowing that you will take this up with the proper authorities, and then with your help and your suggestions as to just what we can do in getting this before the proper authorities. We may have to band together to get some help on this but we are are that you will try to give us some kind consideration so that we do not have to loose our good bottom lands.

We wish to thank you for your past kindness in dealing with the people of North Dakota and we are sure that you will do all in your power to see that consideration is given us.

We will earnestly await your reply.

Sincerely yours.

Wate Bled  
Chas W Rus  
Melvin Martin

Burton D. ...