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## Caspar W. Weinberger to Senator James O. Eastland, 3 October 1972

Caspar W. Weinberger

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JAMES O. EASTLAND  
MISSISSIPPI

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

STANDING COMMITTEES:  
JUDICIARY, CHAIRMAN  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 3, 1972

Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
Director, Office of Management  
and Budget  
Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Weinberger:

It is my understanding that the Office of Budget and Management is presently considering budget requests for Fiscal Year 1974 to continue construction of the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway project.

The construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway is vital to the future economic progress of the States of Alabama, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee as well as my State of Mississippi. Indeed twenty-three Mid-American States will be affected by the project. Completion of the project will mean that the Ohio River, the Upper Mississippi, the Great Lakes region and the Missouri all would be connected to the Gulf of Mexico by a shorter route. Few public works transportation projects have such a broad economic base.

The closer proximity of deep water ports and lower shipping costs provide a tremendous incentive for increased industrial growth, and new job opportunities in the States touching the project. In addition to the obvious transportation and industrial benefits afforded by the project, construction of dams will create a chain of lakes beneficial to the fish

Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger

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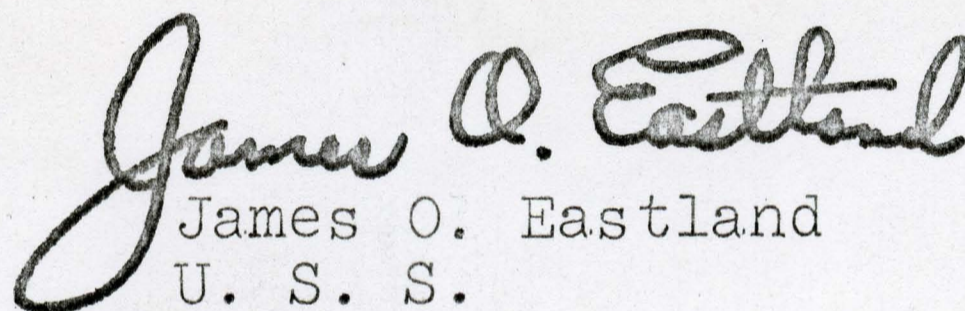
and wildlife of the area and creating new recreational opportunities for the people of the region.

In short, the tremendous economic and human benefits engendered by the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway fully justify the Federal contribution to its development.

For these reasons, I strongly urge that the Office of Budget and Management recommend the requested \$35 million for the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway project or the Corps of Engineers capability, whichever is greater.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

  
James O. Eastland  
U. S. S.