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Letter from Eugene Burdick to Representative William Lemke Regarding Garrison Dam Pool Level, January 6, 1949

Eugene A. Burdick

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BURDICK & BURDICK
LAWYERS

WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA

January 6, 1949

IN REPLY
REFER TO _____

Hon. William Lemke
Member of Congress
New House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Re: Pool Level of Garrison Dam Reservoir.

Dear Mr. Lemke:

I enclose herewith two copies of a proposed Bill which Harry E. Polk and I worked out which may be of some benefit to you in drawing your Bill for permanent Legislation on this subject.

Under this proposed Bill, the maximum normal pool elevation would be high enough to store seventeen million acre feet of water, including silt deposits, with a provision that it could be operated at a higher level required to control flood waters of the size experienced in prior years which we have designated as "precedented flood waters". We have also left in the same proposition against building dykes, levees or other protective works required by a higher level and have provided against the taking of lands by condemnation proceedings where the lands would be flooded by a higher level.

If you think the language of the Bill should be 1830 feet above sea level, we wish you would use your best judgment. Our thought was simply that we would grant them the number of acre feet of storage originally provided in the 1944 Flood Control Act. Our thought was that it might be a little easier to sell this Legislation by using the storage figures mentioned in the original act.

I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as you have had an opportunity to consider the matter.

Sincerely yours,



EUGENE A. BURDICK

EAB:gu
cc. to Hon. Usher L. Burdick
encl. 2 copies Bill