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# Emerson Critical of Binden's Praise For Corps

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Emerson Critical of Binden's Praise For Corps

*By Annabeth Miller,  
ShowMe Times Editor*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson has a few things to say these days to Vice President Joe Biden – and he might feel he was in the ‘hot seat’ when the conversation is completed.

Biden was in St. Louis on Wednesday and had praise for the Army Corps of Engineers and its decision to blow holes in the Birds Point levee in Missouri and flood more than 125,000 acres in the ShowMe State.

The blowing of the levee resulted in the intentional obliteration of 288 residential structures, ten churches, one entire predominantly African-American community, and the flooding of 128,000 acres of Missouri farmland.

According to the Associated Press, Biden told a group of reporters in St. Louis, “it is evidence that the (Army) Corps of Engineers has come up with a method along the Mississippi to be able to mitigate some of the significant damage that otherwise would have occurred.”

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (MO-08) responded to the Vice President’s statements by saying Biden clearly doesn’t understand the situation in the congressional district she

represents.

“Not only has this decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers literally wiped an entire town off the map, it has also in the case of Mississippi County likely reduced the ag economy by some \$65 million,” Emerson said. “There is a swath of destruction alongside the river, and there has thus far been no public indication by the Vice President or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the federal government will be there for these Americans to help them rebuild and keep them safe over the long term.”

Furthermore, Emerson says, there is no evidence to suggest that any reduction in Mississippi River flood stages at Birds Point last week will lead to a reduction in damage as the crest moves downstream.

“I do not know what damage the Vice President imagines was prevented by causing hundreds of millions of dollars of destruction in Southern Missouri, but I can tell you the crisis in our communities is real, it is immediate, and a comprehensive response is urgently needed,” Emerson said.

Emerson said four Southern Missouri counties have been declared major federal disaster areas, but that an expansion of that designation to Scott, Stoddard, Cape Girardeau and other counties is necessary, as well as restoration of the levee sections the Corps of Engineers detonated.

“I think it is foolhardy to call any action that purposefully ruins Americans lives and livelihoods is a sound method of dealing with any disaster,” Emerson said. “The folks I represent are no less important than any other Americans suffering from the flooding along the river.”

***U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson at a briefing by the Army Corps of Engineers near Birds Point on the Mississippi River levee.***

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