

BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN  
1ST DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE,  
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0401

DISTRICT OFFICE:

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MEMO TO: Carol Rasco  
FROM: U.S. Rep. Blanche Lincoln *file*  
DATE: March 5, 1996

RE: revising Social Security Act affecting standard surveys  
of home health agencies and recognition of deemed  
status

As I mentioned to you today, HCFA has stopped performing  
initial certification surveys of home health agencies and  
nursing homes citing budget constraints.

This has resulted in hundreds of new facilities across the  
nation (such as renal dialysis clinics, hospices, physical  
therapy centers, etc.) standing idle and closed to the public.  
These facilities were established by health providers at the  
urging of the Clinton Administration to reduce health care costs.

After months of meeting with providers in Arkansas,  
~~officials at HCFA, industry representatives in Washington and~~  
colleagues and staff in the House of Representatives, I am  
convinced that I am proposing the least controversial and most  
cost-effective solution. I am now hopeful that, with cooperation  
from the Republican leadership in the House, we can successfully  
attach this change in social security law to the continuing  
resolution.

Carol, I would be extremely appreciative if you would raise  
this issue to the Secretary in your upcoming meeting. I have  
been made aware since we talked that the HCFA Administrator  
supports Section 1 and opposes Section 2 of H.R. 3004.

H.R. 3004 would increase the maximum time between standard  
surveys for a home health agency from 15 to 36 months and would  
permit the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an  
average frequency requirement for such surveys consistent with  
the delivery of quality home care services.

Secondly, the bill requires the Secretary to recognize  
accreditation by a national accrediting body for purposes of  
determining a provider's compliance with a condition of  
participation if the Secretary finds that it provides "reasonable  
assurance" the condition has been met.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

15-Mar-1996 01:34pm

TO: Carol H. Rasco

FROM: T J Glauthier  
Office of Mgmt and Budget, NRES

CC: Alice M. Rivlin  
CC: Jennifer Palmieri  
CC: Julie E. Demeo

SUBJECT: Funding For Arkansas Water Projects

Here's the information you asked about in response to a March 5th memo to you from Congresswoman Blanche Lambert Lincoln regarding the funding status of three water projects in Arkansas.

Helena and Vicinity -- is included in the FY97 budget. It is at the requested level of \$150,000 and will be a "new start" in this budget. The project is a local flood control project and has a total project cost of \$12 million.

Grand Prairie -- is also included in the FY97 budget. It is funded at a level of \$788,000 to complete the planning, engineering and design work. That is the level requested by the Congresswoman. This is a project whose sole purpose is supplying water for agricultural irrigation, which is a type of project not usually funded by the Corps. The total project cost of this project is \$315 million.

Bayou Meto -- is not included in the FY97 budget. In the early 1990s, Congress provided funding for a demonstration project in Eastern Arkansas. The Corps chose to undertake the Grand Prairie project, and this one was left unfunded. This is also a project for the sole purpose of providing irrigation water supply for agriculture, which is a type of project that the Corps does not usually fund. This project has a total cost of \$92 million.

## Memorandum

To: Carol Rasco  
From: Congresswoman Blanche Lambert Lincoln *Roll*  
Date: 3/5/96  
Re: Arkansas Water Projects

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I can't tell you how much I appreciate you looking into this matter. As I mentioned in our phone conversation, the following projects are extremely important to the First District of Arkansas.

Helena and Vicinity - This much-needed flood damage protection project in Helena has been under study for several years at considerable investment, with project engineering and design efforts completed in 1995. The federal government has already invested over \$2 million in the planning and development stages. The local sponsors for this project are willing and able to meet their cost-sharing obligations at this time. I would hate to see them lose their eligibility for federal cost sharing now that they have finally been able to solidify their financing package. Approximately \$150,000 under the Flood Control, Mississippi River and Tributaries Construction section of the Corps of Engineers budget is needed to initiate construction of this project in 1997.

Grand Prairie / Bayou Meto - The alluvial aquifer that supports the majority of Arkansas' rice production is rapidly being depleted and will be completely devastated unless something is done by 2015. Local sponsors have been working with the Corps of Engineers over the past three years to study the problem and have developed a solution that will allow the aquifer to replenish, support agricultural production and preserve wildlife habitat.

The study has been funded under the Corps of Engineers, General Investigations account for the past three years. Approximately only \$700,000 is needed in the Planning, Engineering, and Design account of the Corps budget. Most importantly, we are simply asking for the project to be authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. Because several regions of the country are experiencing problems with groundwater depletion, the implications of this project are national in scope and consistent with the President's stance on environmental issues.

*Big Thanks!!*  
*Blanche*