

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 14, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 205420  
Dear Secretary Kerry:

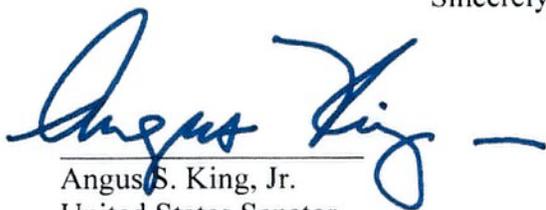
We write to convey our concern about recent warnings issued by the State Department regarding the structural integrity of the Mosul Dam and the proposed timeline to address it. The dam's foundation has been at increasing risk since ISIL captured the area in August 2014, halting all maintenance. When the Kurdish forces retook control of the dam a few weeks later, we hoped that the Government of Iraq would recognize the severity of the situation and immediately work to remedy the damage. We understand, however, that the state of the dam is of such concern that President Obama raised the situation with Prime Minister Abadi in January.

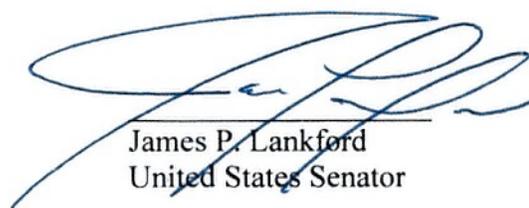
A failure of Mosul Dam would result in serious loss of life—a U.S. Embassy Fact Sheet estimated half a million people or more—and the destruction of major Iraqi population centers. Those who live in the path of the destruction and are lucky enough to survive the initial flood will be displaced to areas ill-prepared to receive them, such as Iran, southern Iraq, and Kurdish territories. As the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations said recently, "The stakes are too high, and the potential consequences too devastating, for us not to confront this problem now."

We urge you to work with our international partners to use all available measures to prevent a catastrophic breach of the dam and to prepare the Iraqi people for the disaster that could occur with no warning. Understanding that the Government of Iraq has signed a contract to repair the dam, but work likely will not start for months, we ask that the State Department lead a government-wide effort to assist in any way possible to speed repairs on the dam. We ask that you personally engage with the Iraqi Government to ensure their focus on this matter does not waver, because, while the challenges facing the people of Iraq are immense, this issue is of paramount importance.

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any assistance to your ongoing efforts.

Sincerely,

  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
James P. Lankford  
United States Senator



Daniel R. Coats  
United States Senator



Richard Burr  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Martin T. Heinrich  
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Roy D. Blunt  
United States Senator