



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Celebrates 20 Years of Successful River Conservation

Milestone Moment for Vital Environmental Management Program (EMP)

La Crosse, WI – On the banks of the upper Mississippi River today, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, along with several of its state and federal natural resources partners, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Environmental Management Program (EMP), a federal program providing for the restoration and long-term monitoring of the Upper Mississippi River. Kind has been a leading supporter of the EMP since elected to Congress, and as a founder and co-chair of the Upper Mississippi River Congressional Task Force, has been successful in advocating for increased funding.

“From commerce to recreational usage, the river provides many great benefits, and it is in our general interest to invest in its long-term preservation,” stated Rep. Kind. “I am honored to stand here today along with so many others who are dedicated to ensuring a healthy river system to celebrate this milestone moment for the EMP and recognize the many successes of this great program.”

The EMP, authorized by the 1986 Water Resource Development Act, is designed to monitor, restore and enhance river and wetland habitats along a 1300-mile stretch of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. One of the nation’s most effective habitat restoration programs, the EMP has been enormously successful in offsetting damages to the environment caused by the construction of navigation and flood control projects in the Upper Mississippi River System. Funding for the program this year is \$20 million, up from \$12 million in 2003. The Upper Mississippi River Task Force sends an annual letter, headed by Rep. Kind, to House appropriators requesting support for EMP.

“The EMP serves as a national model for the evaluation and enhancement of river ecosystems, and it has come to be recognized as the single most important effort committed to ensuring the vitality of the Upper Mississippi River System,” said Kind. “I am proud to have worked with a bipartisan coalition of my colleagues over the years to successfully advocate for increased support for EMP so significant progress can be made in both the long-term monitoring and habitat restoration plans of one of our country’s most valued treasures.”