

W. TODD AKIN  
2D DISTRICT, MISSOURI

117 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2561

301 SOVEREIGN COURT, SUITE 201  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63011  
(314) 590-0029

P.O. Box 519  
ST. CHARLES, MO 63302  
(636) 949-6826

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2010

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
SCIENCE  
SMALL BUSINESS  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
WORKFORCE, EMPOWERMENT, AND  
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

E-Mail:  
rep.akin@mail.house.gov  
Website:  
<http://www.house.gov/akin>

The Honorable Jeremiah Nixon  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 720  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Governor Nixon:

I am writing to respectfully request that you not adopt any resolution to endorse the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan. Option H of the Comprehensive Plan (also known as Plan H) which the Mississippi River Commission has endorsed, would leave the low lying areas of Pike, Lincoln and St. Charles Counties minimally protected from floods in order that they may become the flood water storage reservoir for the Upper Mississippi River. Sadly, this plan was formulated, coordinated and promoted without the knowledge or input of those who would be adversely affected by it. The residents of these three counties deserve ample opportunity to express their concerns and to propose an alternative plan.

### **Background**

Following the Great Flood of 1993, many individuals and organizations noted with alarm that flood-related fatalities and recurring property damage totaling billions of dollars still are common along the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries. These losses continue because a robust levee system built under a single authority according to a set standard to provide a uniform level of flood protection still is not available north of Cape Girardeau. In stark contrast, the comprehensive Mississippi River & Tributaries (MR&T) project has provided excellent flood protection for the lower Mississippi River for over seventy years

In 1999, at the urging of the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Congress authorized the study that later came to be known as the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan. A Collaboration Team was created in 2002 to facilitate coordination with various Federal, state, local and non-governmental agencies and groups, and plan development continued until a draft Comprehensive Plan Report was issued to the public circa May, 2006. Four public meetings (Peoria, Illinois; Burlington, Iowa; Quincy, IL; and Chester, Illinois) were held in late June, 2006 to present the draft and solicit public comments.

Plans A through G appeared in the original draft report. Support for Plan G was strong in northern Missouri and Illinois, but attendees at the Chester, IL location opposed it because it called for a 10,000 acre flood storage region in Monroe County, IL. Further meetings with representatives of levee and drainage districts south of St. Louis, along with additional public comments, resulted in elements of Plans B and G being refined to form Plan M. Meanwhile, other advocacy groups pushed for compromises which ultimately resulted in Plan H, which the MRC endorsed. The Corps presented the finished study to Congress in January, 2009 but made NO recommendation for implementation.

### **Discovery and Recent Events**

In August, 2009, several Commissioners from Pike County traveled to Hannibal, MO to participate in the MRC Low Water Inspection tour. While on board the vessel Mississippi to meet with Corps officials and

members of the MRC, the Commissioners received documents which described Option H – “Plan H” of the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan. The Commissioners were horrified to learn that portions of Pike, Lincoln and St. Charles Counties would receive no flood protection under this plan and, instead, would serve as the flood water reservoir for the Upper Mississippi River.

Had the Pike County Commissioners not attended that Low Water Inspection stop in 2009 and inadvertently stumbled across copies of Plan H, they and others in those three counties still might be “in the dark” concerning this plan. At no instance during the 2002-2008 time frame when the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan was being formulated or reviewed were elected officials, officers of levee and drainage districts, or other concerned citizens in these three counties notified of the proceedings or invited to attend and submit comments.

In August, 2010, after hearing several strong protests during its public hearing in Cape Girardeau, the MRC agreed that it would be appropriate for the public comment period to be reopened. Nevertheless, some advocacy groups, including the Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri River Association (UMIMRA), are continuing to press vigorously for the adoption of Plan H on behalf of their members. If Congress approves Plan H, well-financed levee and drainage districts likely will proceed to raise their levees at their own expense regardless of increasing the potential for causing induced flooding on lands protected by unimproved levees. These self-financed levee raises could occur even if Federal funding for construction is delayed.

#### **Requested Action**

One of the prerequisites for Congressional approval and funding is for the states of Iowa, Illinois and Missouri to endorse the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan. UMIMRA has circulated a formal resolution to the Legislatures of these states calling for this endorsement (please see Enclosure 1). It is this resolution that I respectfully ask that you not to endorse so that the elected officials and affected citizens of Pike, Lincoln and St. Charles Counties may have time to formulate a suitable alternative plan.

Thank you for your assistance in protecting the interests of our fellow Missourians.

Sincerely,



W. Todd Akin  
Member of Congress

Enclosure

Distribution (continued on next page):

Gov. Jeremiah Nixon  
Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder  
  
Sen. Tom Dempsey  
Sen. Kevin Engler

Sen. Jack Goodman  
Sen. Timothy Green  
Sen. John Griesheimer  
Sen. Jolie Justus  
Sen. Joseph Keaveny

Sen. Brad Lager  
Sen. Jim Lembke  
Sen. Rob Mayer  
Sen. Ryan McKenna  
Sen. Gary Nodler

Sen. David Pearce  
Sen. Chuck Purgason  
Sen. Luann Ridgeway  
Sen. Scott Rupp  
Sen. Kurt Schaefer

Distribution (continued)

Sen. Eric Schmitt	Rep. Curt Dougherty	Rep. Mike Leara	Rep. Dwight
Sen. Delbert Scott	Rep. Tony Dugger	Rep. Roman Lee	Scharnhorst
Sen. Charlie Shields	Rep. Gary Dusenber	LeBlanc	Rep. Ed Schieffer
Sen. Wes Shoemyer	Rep. Ed Emery	Rep. Paul LeVota	Rep. Charles Schlottach
Sen. Bill Stouffer	Rep. Vicki Englund	Rep. Albert Liese	Rep. Shane Schoeller
Sen. Carl Vogel	Rep. Doug Ervin	Rep. Scott Lipke	Rep. Sue Schoemehl
Sen. Yvonne Wilson	Rep. Sally Faith	Rep. Tom Loehner	Rep. Jill Schupp
Sen. Robin Wright- Jones	Rep. Joe Fallert	Rep. Beth Low	Rep. Tom Self
	Rep. Barney Fisher	Rep. Rebecca	Rep. Tom Shively
	Rep. Tom Flanigan	McClanahan	Rep. Ryan Silvey
Rep. Sue Allen	Rep. Tim Flook	Rep. Tom McDonald	Rep. Trent Skaggs
Rep. Bert Atkins	Rep. Michael Frame	Rep. Mike McGhee	Rep. Jason Smith
Rep. Joe Aull	Rep. Ward Franz	Rep. Cole McNary	Rep. Joe Smith
Rep. Nita Jane Ayres	Rep. Doug Funderburk	Rep. Margo McNeil	Rep. Michael Spreng
Rep. Kenny Biermann	Rep. Chuck	Rep. Tim Meadows	Rep. Bryan Stevenson
Rep. Walt Bivins	Gatschenberger	Rep. Kate Meiners	Rep. Mary Still
Rep. Linda Black	Rep. Jason Grill	Rep. Chris Molendorp	Rep. Rachel Storch
Rep. Ellen Brandom	Rep. Jeff Grisamore	Rep. James Morris	Rep. Rick Stream
Rep. Rachel Bringer	Rep. Casey Guernsey	Rep. Brian Munzlinger	Rep. Mike Sutherland
Rep. Dan Brown	Rep. Jim Guest	Rep. Bob Nance	Rep. Terry Swinger
Rep. Jason Brown	Rep. Belinda Harris	Rep. Jamilah Nasheed	Rep. Mike Talboy
Rep. Michael Brown	Rep. Steve Hobbs	Rep. Stacey Newman	Rep. Mike Thomson
Rep. Mark Bruns	Rep. Steve Hodges	Rep. Brian Nieves	Rep. Steven Tilley
Rep. Eric Burlison	Rep. Jason Holsman	Rep. Jerry Nolte	Rep. Tom Todd
Rep. John Burnett	Rep. Denny Hoskins	Rep. Charlie Norr	Rep. Clint Tracy
Rep. Don Calloway	Rep. Theodore Hoskins	Rep. Jeanette Oxford	Rep. James Viebrock
Rep. Chris Carter	Rep. Leonard Hughes IV	Rep. Sharon Pace	Rep. Michael Vogt
Rep. Ron Casey	Rep. Jacob Hummel	Rep. Mark Parkinson	Rep. Maynard Wallace
Rep. Maria Chappelle- Nadal	Rep. Allen Icat	Rep. Mike Parson	Rep. Gina Walsh
Rep. Mike Colona	Rep. Kenny Jones	Rep. Darrell Pollock	Rep. Rochelle Walton Gray
Rep. Pat Conway	Rep. Timothy Jones	Rep. Bryan Pratt	Rep. Jay Wasson
Rep. Robert Cooper	Rep. Tishaura Jones	Rep. Paul Quinn	Rep. Steve Webb
Rep. Michael Corcoran	Rep. Jason Kander	Rep. Ron Richard	Rep. Stephen Webber
Rep. Stanley Cox	Rep. Shelley Keeney	Rep. Jeanie Riddle	Rep. Don Wells
Rep. Mike Cunningham	Rep. Chris Kelly	Rep. Jeff Roorda	Rep. Ray Weter
Rep. Shalonn Curls	Rep. Gayle Kingery	Rep. Martin Rucker	Rep. Hope Whitehead
Rep. Cynthia Davis	Rep. Jeanne Kirkton	Rep. Marilyn Ruestman	Rep. Kevin Wilson
Rep. David Day	Rep. Andrew Koenig	Rep. Don Ruzicka	Rep. Larry Wilson
Rep. Bill Deeken	Rep. Sam Komo	Rep. Ray Salva	Rep. Terry Witte
Rep. Charlie Denison	Rep. Michele Kratky	Rep. Therese Sander	Rep. Billy Pat Wright
Rep. Mike Dethrow	Rep. Will Kraus	Rep. David Sater	Rep. Patricia Yaeger
Rep. Scott Dieckhaus	Rep. J C Kuessner	Rep. Luke Scavuzzo	Rep. Anne Zerr
Rep. John Diehl	Rep. Mike Lair	Rep. Rob Schaaf	Rep. Jake Zimmerman
Rep. Bob Dixon	Rep. Sara Lampe	Rep. Rodney Schad	
	Rep. Scott Largent		

Copies furnished:

Presiding Commissioner  
Sean O'Brien

Presiding Commissioner  
Danny Miller

County Executive Steve  
Ehlmann

County Executive  
Charlie Dooley

Request to Delay Endorsement of the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan  
September 28, 2010  
Enclosure

**A RESOLUTION SEEKING AUTHORIZATIONS AND FUNDING OF  
THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

A joint resolution supporting authorization and funding of the Comprehensive Plan for the Upper Mississippi River.

WHEREAS, **THE GREAT STATE OF MISSOURI**, is located in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, and

WHEREAS, floods in recent years have demonstrated the tremendous toll catastrophic flooding takes and how unprepared our nation remains to deal with such disasters, and

WHEREAS, the impact of the Great Flood of 1993 was devastating with \$15 billion in damages, lost earnings and wages, lost of life and damage to 72,000 homes, and

WHEREAS, over the last two-decades, floods in the Upper Mississippi Valley including, Missouri and neighboring states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, including the rivers flowing into the Mississippi River have cost billions of dollars in flood fighting, restoration costs, and lost income, and

WHEREAS, flood control protects urban and rural areas, highways, railroads, water and sewage treatment plants, schools, homes, businesses, and wildlife areas, and

WHEREAS, the lives and livelihoods of our citizens depend in great part on robust flood protection, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed a systemic, integrated strategy and implementation plan for flood damage reduction and related environmental restoration, and

WHEREAS, the plan was developed in coordination with the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin; the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association; and non-governmental organizations, and

WHEREAS, of the Comprehensive Plan for the Upper Mississippi River provides the greatest level of protection to the greatest number of residents in the Upper Mississippi Valley providing enhanced flood protection for most currently-protected urban and agricultural areas,

WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Tennessee Valley Authority shows that every \$1 spent on flood control at the 500-year level will generate nearly a five-fold return on the costs of making the improvements. These gains would materialize as increased income, damage avoidance, and enhanced economic enhancement in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress must authorize and fund the Comprehensive Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI  
THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF January 2010:

That the **STATE OF MISSOURI** seeks authorization and funding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Comprehensive Plan for Flood Control by Congress, and that a copy of this resolution is placed in the hands of our Members of Congress.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Enclosure: Sample Missouri Resolution

*NOTE: Endorsement of the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan per the language in this Resolution would be a default endorsement of "Plan H"*