

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

WHEREAS, the United States Corps of Engineers' five-year study of the Upper Mississippi River Basin, which is everything north of Cairo, Illinois, failed to produce a plan for flood control acceptable to all stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River Commission did recommend Plan H to the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers has not recommended this plan to the United States Congress, citing the expense of the construction of 500-year levees along these rivers, estimated to be \$6 billion, does not meet current cost-benefit guidelines for federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers additionally determined a need for better data based upon new hydrology and flow studies and the need to study tributaries of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers indicated that ramifications of the additional 500-year levees and their potential to cause additional flooding would need to be determined, and affected populations and communities informed and advised of the potential impact; and

WHEREAS, the affected counties include the Missouri counties of Lincoln, Pike, and St. Charles; and

WHEREAS, Plan H designates only about half of the levees in the Missouri counties of Lincoln, Pike, and St. Charles be raised, while to the north a higher percentage of 500-year levees are recommended for both sides of the river; and

WHEREAS, the stakeholders in the Missouri counties of Lincoln, Pike, and St. Charles desire the protections provided by the 500-year levees; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Plan H, if implemented, denies the benefits of 500-year levees to those making a living along the Mississippi River, negatively impacting agriculture, transportation, businesses, industries, tourism, hunting, fishing, boating, infrastructure, and residences; and

WHEREAS, over 6,500 citizens have signed petitions opposing the proposed Plan H; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Mississippi River Basin should receive funding comparable to funding for the Southern Mississippi River Basin from Cairo, Illinois, to New Orleans, Louisiana:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Congress to support a comprehensive plan for the Upper Mississippi River Basin that enhances system-wide flood control without creating adverse impacts on existing levees, levee districts, rural communities, and metropolitan areas. The plan should be based on analysis that quantifies the impacts of enhanced flood control measures and acknowledges the importance of keeping agricultural land in production. The proposed Plan H making the Missouri counties of Lincoln, Pike, and St. Charles the lowest points on the Mississippi River levee system is totally unacceptable and we ask the Missouri Congressional delegation to oppose this plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.