



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Frank A. Barnitz  
16<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 425  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**For Immediate Release:  
Sept. 9, 2005**

**Contact: Shelly St. Clair  
(573) 751-2108**

# Sen. Frank Barnitz Grateful for Senate Decision Opposing “Spring Rise”

---

JEFFERSON CITY – State Senator Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, today lauded the Missouri Senate for approving a resolution declaring opposition to a proposed “spring rise” of the Missouri River. Barnitz spoke on the Senate floor in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, which was approved by senators in a deliberative session that lasted until 3 a.m. Friday morning.

“This decision by the federal government to raise water levels will wreak havoc on Missouri farmers and cause serious disruptions to the Missouri River commercial system,” Barnitz said. “We have been given no proof that this man-made ‘spring rise’ will benefit wildlife. We do know, however, that this act will increase the risk of flooding in the Missouri River basin and create drainage problems on Missouri farms.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to seasonally release more water downstream from a South Dakota dam. The reasoning behind the order for the “spring rise” is that the rise in water levels will increase reproduction among birds and fish.

However, many downstream farmers from Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri are protesting the decision because of the negative effects the raised water levels will have on their farms. Aside from flooding, drainage problems will delay crop planting and increase costs to farmers.

The detrimental effects extend beyond agriculture. The Missouri and Mississippi River navigation system will have a shortened transport season because water levels will be lower during dry times. And hydroelectric power plants in Missouri, which require a certain amount of water to generate electricity, will also be jeopardized.

-MORE-

“The state of Missouri will feel a significant economic impact if this misguided decision by federal bureaucrats is allowed to pass,” Barnitz said. “I know what Missouri farmers experienced in the flood of '93, and I do not want to see that happen again.”

For more information, contact Sen. Barnitz at (573) 751-2108 or via e-mail at [Frank.Barnitz@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Frank.Barnitz@senate.mo.gov).

###