



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Senate District 21

Capitol Building, Room 332
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Senator Stouffer Proposes Resolution to Halt ‘Spring Rise’

As an advocate for property rights and other personal freedoms, my greatest pet peeve is when out-of-state bureaucrats try to impose ridiculous regulations on hardworking Americans. It reminds me of what Ronald Reagan said when he made it to Washington, D.C. as president: When we start referring to government as “us” instead of “them”, it is time to go back home.

So when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to essentially break a dam in South Dakota to promote fish breeding, at the expense of Missouri River basin farmers, I took it as a personal affront. That is why I have drafted a resolution for the upcoming special session that urges the corps not to carry out this assault on Missouri farmers.

There are several reasons why I am working to block this act by the federal government. The “spring rise” will increase the threat of flooding for farmers along the Missouri, and the drainage problems that ensue will delay crop planting and increase costs to farmers. Further, commercial carriers will suffer during water shortages. We will have no control over the rising water levels once the “spring rise” is underway; so once the water has been released, there’s no turning back.

The point behind the ‘spring rise’ is to encourage breeding for an endangered species of fish, the pallid sturgeon. However, there is no proof that the higher water levels will result in increased breeding. These types of environmental experiments should not come before the livelihoods of our hardworking Missouri farmers.

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Many farmers from Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri are protesting the decision because of the negative effects the raised water levels will have on their farms. I have spoken with many of them, and I plan on further meetings with farmers in my district. To everyone in my district, I pledge to fight this assault on the well-being of Missouri farmers with all of my power, and I thank everyone for their support.

I would also like to take a moment to express my deepest sympathies to Congressman Ike Skelton, whose wife, Susie, tragically passed away earlier this week at the age of 69. Congressman Skelton, a Lexington native, represents the 4th U.S. Congressional District of Missouri, which shares several counties with the 21st Senate District. Susie was a remarkable woman, and I hope you will all keep Congressman Skelton in your prayers. He has served his country with honor for nearly 30 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other matter, or would like to receive these weekly reports electronically, please call our office toll free at (866) 768-3987 or e-mail bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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