



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Bill Stouffer
21st Senate District

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Sen. Bill Stouffer to Host Spring Rise Tour to Promote Awareness

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, today announced that he will host a tour of the 21st Senate District to discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision to raise water levels in the Missouri River despite the threats posed to Missouri farmers and agriculture businesses. Stouffer will meet with agriculture experts and farmers in three counties on Friday, Sept. 2.

“This tour will give me an opportunity to discuss the detrimental effects the proposed ‘spring rise’ will have on hardworking Missouri farmers,” Stouffer said. “These meetings will also offer information to residents of the 21st District on how they will be affected by this decision.”

Stouffer is working with meeting coordinators Paul Davis, owner of Interstate Marine Terminals in Howard County; Bill Jackson, general manager of AGRIServices of Brunswick, LLC; and Tom Waters, chairman of Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association.

The Tour will begin at 9 a.m. at the Diana Bend Conservation Area pumping station on U.S. Highway 40, eight miles northeast of the Boonville Bridge in Howard County. At 1 p.m., Stouffer will be in Chariton County at AGRIServices of Brunswick-West, three miles west of Brunswick on U.S. Highway 24. Finally, a Ray County stop will begin at 4 p.m. at the Orrick Community Center in downtown Orrick.

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“It is imperative that our industry get in front of this issue and that farmers, agribusiness owners and anyone interested in the economy of this area attend these informal meetings to express their concerns,” said Stouffer.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release more water downstream from a South Dakota dam. The reasoning behind the order is that the rise in water levels will signal an endangered fish, the pallid sturgeon, to increase spawning.

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. Further, the Missouri River navigation system will be required to have a shortened transport season during times of water shortage.

All but one of the nine counties Stouffer represents in the Missouri Senate borders the Missouri River.

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Senator Bill Stouffer represents Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray and Saline counties and northeast Clay County in the state legislature. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-1507, or toll free at (866) 768-3987.