



State Senator Scott T. Rupp ~ District 2

The Rupp Report

*Serving Lincoln County & St. Charles County***Column For Week of: August 16, 2010**

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Plan H Opens Gate to Possible Flooding in 2nd Senatorial District

I recently submitted a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Sen. Christopher “Kit” Bond, U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, U.S. Congressman Todd Akin, and Missouri Gov. Jeremiah “Jay” Nixon regarding Plan H and its possible impact on the citizens of Pike, Lincoln and St. Charles counties, two of which I represent in the Missouri Senate. Below is the letter I wrote to Colonel Thomas O’Hara, District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

I’m writing this letter in regards to Plan H, which is a proposal for levee alterations along the Upper Mississippi River in Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois. This is a matter of urgent concern to me, especially in light of the fact that many people are not aware of this plan or its ramifications.

Plan H calls for building taller, wider and stronger levees along the Mississippi River all the way down through Iowa, Northern Missouri and Illinois, until it gets to Pike, Lincoln and St. Charles counties in Missouri. In these three counties, the plan does not include building flood-proof levees. Instead, it calls for about half of the counties’ levees to be improved while the other half is required to be left as is. The lands behind the unprotected levees have been designated as “flood water storage areas.” Mississippi River bottom lands north of these counties would receive federal protection from flooding, with the three counties of Pike, Lincoln and St. Charles, two of which I represent in the Missouri Senate, left unprotected against the threat of floods. This is totally unacceptable.

I am asking that you oppose this plan, as it will make the counties of Pike, Lincoln and St. Charles the dumping ground for future floods. This would be devastating to my constituents in the 2nd Senatorial District. I have written Gov. Nixon, both U.S. Sens. Christopher Bond and Claire McCaskill, and Congressman Todd Akin stating my opposition to Plan H and asked for their support in opposing the plan as well. I believe that further studies need to be done in order to truly understand the effects of building these better levees, new hydrology and flow studies on the more recent floods since 1993 need to be done, and public hearings need to be held in the areas that will be affected, namely the three counties that will be left unprotected.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other topic regarding state government, please visit my website, [e-mail me](#), or call my office at (866) 271-2844.

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