

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

WHEREAS, over the course of the spring and summer of 2011, unprecedented releases of water upstream by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have caused extensive pressure on the river levees in the state of Missouri that protect many communities, businesses, and prime agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, in the face of this tremendous pressure some of Missouri's levees have been intentionally and unintentionally breached, resulting in widespread flooding, which has proved devastating to many Missouri homes, farms, families, and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, Missouri families have suffered unprecedented losses as a result of this situation and many Missouri farmers have experienced a complete and total loss of agricultural production, resulting in a decimated farm incomes and ravaged local economies; and

WHEREAS, the flood waters have not yet receded in some parts of Missouri and continue to disrupt the lives of hard-working Missourians; and

WHEREAS, even after the flood waters recede, much work will need to be done to restore the productivity of the damaged agricultural land and repair the ruined homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is charged with management of the nation's rivers and flood control is one of the primary purposes for which the rivers are to be managed:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Extraordinary Session, hereby strongly urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage the rivers in such a way as to avoid the devastating flooding disasters that have occurred this year and also strongly urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to rebuild the damaged levees to their previous heights as expediently as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate encourage communities, families and other stakeholders to work together to restore the prime agricultural lands that have been damaged by the recent flooding so that the productive value of these lands is not irrevocably lost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate strongly encourage the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation to actively support policies for the management of the Missouri River that mimic natural river level rises and falls and that minimize devastating flood events such as those that have been experienced by so many Missourians this summer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Secretary of the U.S. Army and the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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