

News Release

UMIMRA

Upper Mississippi, Illinois & Missouri Rivers Association

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2008

For Further Information

217-522-4109

Kim Robinson

Flood Control Policy Gains Momentum

Illinois Joins Missouri in Support of Flood Control Action from US Corps of Engineers

Gov. Blagojevich Writes Letter to Corps of Engineers Supporting
Comprehensive Plan M for the Upper Mississippi River Valley

QUINCY, IL – Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich has now joined neighboring states of Missouri and Iowa calling for approval of a systemic flood control plan in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Blagojevich expressed Illinois' support for Plan M in a letter to Major General Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Rights of the Army Corps of Engineers.

With Blagojevich's letter announcing Illinois' backing, "Plan M" now is supported by Missouri and Illinois.

"This plan also offers the highest level of protection to the greatest number of communities and residents in the Upper Valley and recommends follow-up studies to further evaluate cost effectiveness considerations," Gov. Blagojevich wrote. "The area would also see an increase in farm income, damages avoided, enhanced economic development, and job opportunities. Please accept Illinois' support for Plan M."

Support of a plan by both states is a key step that demonstrates to Congress the need to implement a flood control plan. The Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri Rivers Association (UMIMRA) pushed for the adoption of a multi-state comprehensive plan in order to reduce the catastrophic flooding in the Upper Mississippi Valley.

"Our Association appreciates the support for flood control from both of these key states. Clearly recent flooding has created the hardships that policymakers are taking note of and movement toward approval of flood control policy in the Upper Mississippi Valley is gaining momentum," said UMIMRA Chairman David McMurray. "The serious flooding along the Upper Mississippi Valley this year demonstrates yet again that Washington needs to take action on flood control to protect lives, property and local economies. We appreciate Gov. Blagojevich's letter and the State of Illinois' backing for flood control action now."

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UMIMRA represents Levee and Drainage Districts, businesses that use the rivers to get their products, farmers, local governments and others who rely on a sound navigation system on the Upper Mississippi River System. For more than 50 years, UMIMRA has played a critical role in shaping public policy at the national, state and local governmental levels in relation to flood control, navigation, agriculture and levee and drainage districts.

For more information on UMIMRA, please visit UMIMRA.org or contact Kim Robinson at 217-522-4109.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

Rod Blagojevich
GOVERNOR

July 1, 2008

Major General Don T. Riley
Director of Civil Rights
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear General Riley:

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I would like to express support for systemic flood control in the Upper Mississippi Valley, specifically Plan M.

Plan M, as outlined in the Corps of Engineers' Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan, offers a viable option that could be supported by three states. This plan also offers the highest level of protection to the greatest number of communities and residents in the Upper Valley and recommends follow-up studies to further evaluate cost effectiveness considerations. The area would also see an increase in farm income, damages avoided, enhanced economic development, and job opportunities.

Please accept Illinois' support for Plan M.

Sincerely,


Rod Blagojevich