

# UMIMRA

**Upper Mississippi, Illinois & Missouri Rivers Association**

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For Further Information  
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## **LEADING MIDWEST RIVER GROUP APPLAUDS ILLINOIS SUPPORT FOR FLOOD CONTROL**

*Calls on Congress to Take Action*

Springfield, IL – The Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri River Association (UMIMRA) applauded the Illinois General Assembly’s approval of Senate Joint Resolution 87 last week in a unanimous vote. The resolution outlines the importance of flood control in the Upper Mississippi Valley and calls on the U.S. Congress to authorize and fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan for Flood Control.

The Comprehensive Plan was authorized and funded by Congress in response to the Great Flood of 1993 that resulted in the loss of life and property, and cost the country billions for flood fighting and restoration. Since that time, the region has been hit by more catastrophic floods, most recently in 2008.

The Corps of Engineers completed the study in 2008 and forwarded it to the U.S. Congress for further action. The study concluded that comprehensive flood control is achievable, and outlined a plan that would allow for the highest level of protection to Illinois, Iowa and Missouri residents. The Mississippi River Commission subsequently recommended adoption of a specific alternative outlined in the plan, known as “Plan H.”

“Over the past several years, we have repeatedly been reminded that we are no more prepared than we were in 1993 to defend our citizens or our economy. We know that it is a question of ‘when’ rather than ‘if’ another disaster will strike. We applaud the Illinois General Assembly’s leadership on this important issue and urge Congress to take action to authorize and fund the Comprehensive Plan. said UMIMRA Chairman David McMurray. “We need flood control now in order to protect the public health, life and safety. In economic terms, it is smarter to invest in flood control rather than repeatedly paying the tremendous costs associated with cleaning up businesses, homes and lives after each subsequent flood.”

The Tennessee Valley Authority has also shown that every \$1 spent on flood control will generate a five-fold economic return on the cost of making the improvements.

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