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LRB096 19755 JDS 35185 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is located in the Upper  
3 Mississippi River Valley; and

4 WHEREAS, Recent floods have demonstrated the tremendous  
5 toll that catastrophic flooding can take on our communities and  
6 how unprepared our nation remains to deal with such disasters;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Great Flood of 1993 resulted in the loss of  
9 life, property damage, and billions of dollars in other  
10 damages, lost earnings, and wages; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the last 2 decades, floods in the Upper  
12 Mississippi River Valley have required the expenditure of  
13 billions of dollars for flood fighting and restoration; and

14 WHEREAS, Flood control protects urban and rural areas,  
15 highways, railroads, water and sewage treatment plants,  
16 schools, homes, businesses, and wildlife areas; and

17 WHEREAS, The lives and livelihoods of our citizens depend  
18 in great part on robust flood protection; and

19 WHEREAS, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed a

1 systemic, integrated strategy and implementation plan for  
2 flood damage reduction and related environmental restoration;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, This Comprehensive Plan was developed in  
5 coordination with Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and  
6 Wisconsin; the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association; and  
7 non-governmental organizations; and

8 WHEREAS, This Comprehensive Plan, if implemented, would  
9 provide the greatest level of protection to the greatest number  
10 of residents in the Upper Mississippi River Valley by ensuring  
11 enhanced flood protection for most currently-protected urban  
12 and agricultural areas; and

13 WHEREAS, A study conducted by the Tennessee Valley  
14 Authority shows that every \$1 spent on flood control in the  
15 500-year floodplain of the Upper Mississippi River Valley  
16 generates a nearly 5-fold economic return in, among other  
17 things, costs avoided and increased income; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States Congress must authorize and fund  
19 the Comprehensive Plan in order for it to be implemented;  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
2 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Congress of the United  
3 States to authorize and fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers'  
4 Comprehensive Plan for Flood Control in the Upper Mississippi  
5 River Valley; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 delivered to the members of the Illinois congressional  
8 delegation.