

# UPPER MISSISSIPPI, ILLINOIS & MISSOURI RIVERS ASSOCIATION (UMIMRA)

## Legislative Action Request

### **UMIMRA Needs Your Help in Contacting Congress to Support HR 5288 - The Upper Mississippi River Flood Control Act**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-03) introduced legislation to improve flood control plans for the Upper Mississippi River. HR 5288 - the Upper Mississippi River Flood Control Act - will require the Secretary of the Army Corps of Engineers to submit a flood plan for the Upper Mississippi River to Congress by January 1, 2021.

HR 5288 amends the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 and requires the Army Corps to gather input from all stakeholders including levee and drainage districts, nonprofit organizations, and agricultural stakeholders. The amendments also include evaluation of public, private partnerships for funding alternatives of levee improvement projects and evaluates financing alternatives under the Army Corps Water Infrastructure Program.

The Upper Mississippi, Illinois & Missouri Rivers Association (UMIMRA) has worked closely with Congressman Luetkemeyer's office in developing the legislation and commends Congressman Luetkemeyer for his leadership in introducing this important legislation. UMIMRA supports HR 5288 and looks forward to working with other members of Congress to get this bill passed. Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-18) recently agreed to be a co-sponsor.

### **KEY POINTS**

- Once again in 2019, we have seen record flooding throughout Missouri and the Upper Mississippi River basin.
- We need to work together to find solutions that will reduce flood damages and protect property and people.
- The time for a comprehensive flood control plan is long overdue. This legislation is important to help prevent future flood disasters along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.
- The flood plan required in HR 5288 will recognize the change in weather conditions with allowances for future adjustments and plan for necessary structural improvements and storage where needed to convey major floods with minimal property damage and no loss of life.
- The Mississippi River Commission recommended a plan in 2008 called plan H. This plan had numerous problems, including a low federal cost-benefit ratio, which prevented federal investment and also called for buy outs instead of flood storage easements. Since 2010, UMIMRA has been working to find a format to

develop plan alternatives that can be implemented and minimize the past issues.  
The Upper Mississippi needs a systemic flood control plan to move forward.

### **ACTION REQUEST**

UMIMRA is asking all members along with levee and drainage districts, businesses, landowners, and anyone with an interest in flood control to contact your U.S. House Representative.

1. Call their office or send an email
2. Be sure and mention:
  - ✓ Your name and address
  - ✓ Ask them to be a co-sponsor of HR 5288 and to support the bill
  - ✓ If Congressman Luetkemeyer or LaHood is your Representative, thank them for their support
  - ✓ Briefly describe how any flooding has impacted you, your family or your business
  - ✓ The time for a comprehensive flood control plan is long overdue.
3. To find your Representative and their contact information visit - <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
4. You may also call the U.S. House switchboard operator at (202) 224-3121 and they can connect you to their office.

### **UMIMRA CONTACT**

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