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VV adopted as amended
by #104 - Boswell

Missouri River Amendment Congressman Steve King

The King amendment directs the Secretary of Agriculture to take action, within his jurisdiction, to promote immediate increased flood protection for farmers, producers, and other agricultural interests in the Missouri River Basin.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6083
OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

At the end of title XII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 11. INCREASED PROTECTION FOR AGRICULTURAL**
2 **INTERESTS IN THE MISSOURI RIVER BASIN.**

3 (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Record runoff occurred in the Missouri
5 River basin during 2011 as a result of historic rain-
6 fall over portions of the upper basin coupled with
7 heavy plains and mountain snowpack.

8 (2) Runoff above Sioux City, Iowa, during the
9 5-month period of March through July totaled an es-
10 timated 48.4 million acre-feet (referred to in this
11 section as “MAF”). This runoff volume was more
12 than 20 percent greater than the design storm for
13 the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System (re-
14 ferred to in this section as “System”), which was
15 based on the 1881 runoff of 40.0 MAF during the
16 same 5-month period.

17 (3) During the 2011 runoff season, nearly 61
18 million acre feet of water entered the Missouri River
19 system, far surpassing the previous record of 49

1 MAF in runoff that was set during the flood of
2 1997.

3 (4) Given the incredible amount of water enter-
4 ing the reservoir system, the summer months were
5 spent working to evacuate as much water from the
6 reservoir system as possible, ultimately leading to
7 record high water releases from Gavins Point Dam
8 of 160,000 cubic feet per second, a rate that more
9 than doubled the previous release record of 70,000
10 cubic feet per second set in 1997.

11 (5) For nearly four months, these extremely
12 high releases from Gavins Point were maintained,
13 resulting in severe and sustained flooding, with
14 much of western Iowa and eastern Nebraska as well
15 as portions of South Dakota, Kansas, and Missouri
16 inundated by a flooding river three to five feet deep,
17 up to 11 miles wide, and flowing at a rate of 4 to
18 11 miles per hour.

19 (6) Thousands of homes and businesses were
20 damaged or destroyed and hundreds of millions of
21 dollars in damage was done to roads and other pub-
22 lic infrastructure.

23 (7) In addition to the homes, businesses, and
24 infrastructure impacted by the flooding, hundreds of
25 thousands of acres of cropland were affected.

1 (8) The Department of Agriculture has esti-
2 mated that 400,000 to 500,000 acres of some of the
3 most productive crop land in the world was flooded
4 in 2011.

5 (9) Local Farm Services Agency representatives
6 have estimated that \$82,100,000 was lost in 2011
7 alone due to damaged or lost crops and unplanted
8 acres.

9 (10) Not only did the flooding eliminate the
10 2011 crop, but it is highly unlikely that many farm-
11 ers will be able to put this land back into production
12 at any point in the near future.

13 (11) Producers will have to contend with large
14 piles of sand, silt, and other debris that have been
15 deposited in their fields, meaning the impact of this
16 flood will be felt in the agricultural communities up
17 and down the river for many, many years to come.

18 (12) Currently, the amount of storage capacity
19 in the reservoir system that is set aside for flood
20 control is based upon the vacated space required to
21 control the 1881 flood, because prior to the 2011
22 flood, the 1881 flood was seen as the “high water
23 mark”.

24 (13) Given the historic flooding that took place
25 in 2011, it is clear that that year’s flooding now rep-

1 resents a new “high water mark”, surpassing the
2 flooding of even the 1881 flood.

3 (14) It is important that the flood control re-
4 lated functions of the System management be ad-
5 justed to reflect the reality of the 2011 flood as the
6 new “worst case scenario” for flooding along the
7 Missouri River.

8 (15) System management may begin to be ad-
9 justed to account for the 2011 flood through a recal-
10 culation of the amount of storage space within the
11 System that is allocated to flood control, using the
12 model not of the 1881 flood, but of the greatest
13 flood experienced—the flood of 2011.

14 (16) As a result of the flooding in 2011, many
15 States received disaster declarations from the De-
16 partment of Agriculture to help farmers and pro-
17 ducers recover from the damage done by the high
18 water.

19 (17) Though helpful, even the assistance pro-
20 vided by the Department of Agriculture will not pro-
21 vide many in the agriculture community with the re-
22 sources to put their land back into production any
23 time soon.

24 (18) Without the protection that will come from
25 a fundamental change in the reservoir System’s

1 flood control storage allocations, farmers, producers,
2 and other agricultural interests who may be in a po-
3 sition to restart their operations will find it difficult
4 to justify doing so, given the fact that they will not
5 be protected from similar flooding in the future.

6 (b) UPDATED MANAGEMENT OF THE MISSOURI
7 RIVER TO PROTECT AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.—In
8 order to strengthen the agricultural economy, revitalize
9 the rural communities, and conserve the natural resources
10 of the Missouri River basin, the Congress directs
11 the Secretary of Agriculture to take action to promote
12 immediate increased flood protection for farmers, pro-
13 ducers, and other agricultural interests in the Missouri
14 River basin by working within his jurisdiction to support
15 efforts—

16 (1) to recalculate the amount of space within
17 the System that is allocated to flood control storage
18 using the 2011 flood as the model; and

19 (2) to increase the River's channel capacity be-
20 tween the reservoirs and below Gavins Point.

