Legislation will offer greater flood protection by requiring the USACoE to increase the storage capacity in the Missouri River reservoir system that is allocated for flood control.

Washington D.C.- Congressman Steve King (R-IA) announced today that he will be introducing legislation that requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACoE) to revise its Missouri River Water Control Master Manual. King made his announcement this afternoon, after spending the morning inspecting flood damage by boat on a stretch of the Missouri River between Council Bluffs and Missouri Valley. Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and of the Governor's office joined Congressman King this morning to view the ongoing flooding.

Congressman Steve King (right) and a representative of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources prepare to embark on a boat tour to examine damage caused by Missouri River flooding

"This year's flood is much larger than the historic flood of 1881, which serves as the basis for the Army Corps of Engineers' flood control storage space calculations, and the Master Manual needs to be adjusted to reflect this fact," said King.

"As the water has poured out of Gavins Point, it has exceeded the Corps ability to manage it under existing models, and Iowans are suffering the terrible consequences. My legislation will require the Corps to revise the Master Manual to account for flooding of the size and scale experienced this year. When the flood waters recede, we cannot be lulled into a false sense of security. The Corps needs to make this year's flooding their new baseline in the Master Manual so that future flood management efforts will do a much better job of protecting the homes, property and businesses of residents who live in close proximity to the Missouri River."

King's legislation will require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to recalculate the total amount of flood control storage space within the Missouri River Reservoir System so that the amount of space is sufficient to control the largest flood experienced in the System. Currently, the USACoE Master Manual largely bases its calculations of flood control storage space within the reservoir system on the amount of storage needed to control the flood of 1881 - a calculation that has shown itself to be insufficient to manage this year's ongoing flood.

King's bill will also require the Army Corps of Engineers to adjust the Missouri River Reservoir System's two flood control storage zones prior to the runoff season each year to ensure that there is adequate space in the zones to prevent serious downstream flooding.

Congressman King has already secured the support of Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) on this legislation and King will be working in the coming weeks to secure the support of additional members of the Missouri River delegation prior to introducing the bill when Congress returns.

###

Click here to view a draft of Congressman King's Legislation. To view more photos of Congressman King's trip please click here to visit his Flickr account.