

Washington, DC- Today Congressman Steve King (R-IA) released the following statement after Congress passed legislation to provide \$8.1 billion in emergency funding for disaster recovery. The bill included \$6.4 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund and \$1.7 billion in funding for disaster recovery assistance through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps). The legislation passed the House yesterday, with King's support. Additionally, the House passed, and King supported, legislation to offset the cost of the disaster aid with an across-the-board cut to non-defense spending in Fiscal Year 2012. The legislation was approved by the Senate today, although the offset for the disaster relief was stripped out by a vote of 43-56. The legislation now awaits the president's signature.

"This year's flooding along the Missouri River did significant amounts of damage to homes, businesses, and farm land, and it greatly weakened much of the infrastructure that's in place up and down the river to protect us from flooding," said King. "The Corps has estimated that nearly \$750 million in damage was done to the levees and other flood control infrastructure in the Missouri River basin. Getting our levees repaired to their pre-flood specifications has been a priority of mine since water levels crested. Without the protection of the levees, home owners and businesses will be unable to rebuild and many farmers will be forced to pay triple crop insurance premiums. This funding will give FEMA the resources it needs and will provide the Corps the resources necessary to repair flood protection structures to, and I emphasize this, their pre-flood elevations. Finally, beleaguered flood victims can see at least one positive step that Congress has taken."

"For several months, I have said that emergency disaster aid should be offset with cuts to line items in the budget that are of less priority," said King. "I was pleased that this position prevailed in the House yesterday with the vote to pay for the disaster relief that was passed. This was the right and responsible thing to do. Unfortunately, Senate Democrats oppose responsible federal spending and seem to believe that continued deficit spending is preferable to prioritized spending. It appears their view is that rebuilding levees and other critical infrastructure is of no higher priority than any other line item in our federal budget. I disagree. I believe our nation's fiscal situation requires us to carefully prioritize federal spending. I am pleased that the House followed this principle, and I am disappointed in the Senate's failure to do the same."

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King: Additional Disaster Relief Funding On Its Way

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