

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve King released the following statement today after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that the five breaches along Missouri River Levee Unites L575 and L550 have been closed. The breaches were sustained during last year's historic flooding along the Missouri River. The Corps set a deadline for completion of the repairs of March 1st, because that is the date associated with the beginning of the runoff season in the Missouri River basin. King has been a vocal advocate for levee repairs to be completed in a timely manner to ensure that those who live, work, and farm in the River bottom have the ability to rebuild their lives, businesses, and farming operations.

"The restoration of levees L-550 and L-575 is a significant milestone in the recovery process," said King. "This is particularly good news for the farmers protected by them. Not only will they benefit from the flood protection the levees offer, they will also be spared the expense of triple crop insurance premiums, which would have kicked in if the levees were not repaired before the March 15th cut off for crop insurance purchases."

"There certainly are other land reclamation issues to be worked through before all of the acres of farmland that were impacted by last year's flood return to their pre-flood productivity, but this is an important milestone to put behind us."

"Now we need to move forward to put in place the next level of flood protection for the basin - passing my legislation, H.R. 2942, which will require the Corps to increase the flood storage space in the River's reservoirs to provide those in the River bottom with protection from a repeat of last year's flooding."

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