



Legislature Approves Plummer/Meier Resolution to Preserve Kaskaskia Watershed

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Springfield, IL...State Senator Jason Plummer (R-Edwardsville) and State Representative Charlie Meier (R-Okawville) teamed up to urge the legislature to secure state funding to make repairs and improvements to the Kaskaskia Watershed.

“The Kaskaskia Watershed is vital to the economy in southern Illinois,” said Rep. Meier. “These funds will be used to restore and protect the Watershed from further erosion, resulting in the prevention of flooding at Scott Air Force Base and improving the waterway for barges that ship goods down the river.”

The United States Congress established the Kaskaskia Watershed Restoration Act in 2007 and authorized \$20 million for critical projects after a Comprehensive Plan is developed. The Comprehensive Plan is stalled due to the lack of financial support from the State of Illinois. Rep. Meier and Sen. Plummer are requesting \$300,000 to be included in the upcoming state budget in order to complete the plan and to leverage federal funding to protect the Watershed.

According to Senator Plummer, “Time is of the essence, it’s critical the state allocates much-needed funding to protect the Kaskaskia Watershed. It generates over seven million tourists, \$162 million from tourism and nearly 560,000 people rely on the Watershed as their primary source of drinking water.”

The Kaskaskia Watershed encompasses 10.2 percent of the State and includes all or parts of 22 counties. The Watershed starts in Champaign County and ends at the Mississippi River in Randolph County, including three authorized Corps projects, Lake Shelbyville, Carlyle Lake, and the Kaskaskia Navigation Project.

Senator Plummer and Representative Meier sponsored identical resolutions that were approved in the spring and fall veto session to help secure state funds for the Kaskaskia Watershed. The resolutions (HR 394 and SR 451) urge all four caucuses and the Governor to consider the Kaskaskia Watershed Comprehensive Plan when creating the upcoming fiscal year budget