

The News-Gazette

Kirk condemns Army Corps project

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Early this month, Sen. Mark Kirk, R-Ill., called on the Army Corps of Engineers to put a swift end to the highly destructive New Madrid Floodway Project that, in the senator's words, could cause "irreparable harm to families," "devastate the economy of southern Illinois" and threaten "the precious natural resources of the Midwest."

We agree. And we applaud the senator for his unequivocal stand against the project.

At \$165 million, the New Madrid Floodway Project is a classic Army Corps boondoggle. Yet the harm it would cause is far greater than wasted tax dollars.

The project would close off the last remaining link between the Mississippi River and its floodplain in the state of Missouri, destroying critical habitat for birds, fish and many other wild species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has said the losses will be irretrievable.

The project would also put river towns like Cairo, Olive Branch and Metropolis at great risk of catastrophic floods, like those in 2011 that destroyed homes and livelihoods.

With his letter, Sen. Kirk has joined a chorus of opponents seeking to stop this rotten project.

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