

June 25, 2004

House Approves Funding for Chesterfield-Monarch and Valley Park Levees

Washington D.C.- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005. The bill included funding requested by Mr. Akin for critical levee projects in Missouri's Second Congressional District.

Congressman Akin stated that, "I am thankful for Committee Chairman, David Hobson's willingness to work with me during the current budget crunch to secure funding for these vital projects which will protect hundreds of businesses and infrastructure in economically developing areas."

The bill included \$500,000 in funds for improving the Chesterfield-Monarch levee. The administration had requested no funding for Chesterfield-Monarch levee improvements.

The levee is currently being improved to protect the Chesterfield Valley from flood events up to a 500-year level. In 1993 the valley flooded causing \$420 million in losses. The levee protects I-64, Spirit of St. Louis Airport and hundreds of businesses which employ thousands of people.

The bill also included \$2,060,000 in construction funds for the Valley Park levee. When completed, the Valley Park levee will protect the growing city of Valley Park, the elementary school, the high school, city hall, highway 141 and numerous businesses.