

July 18, 2002

**Akin Opposes Interior Appropriations Bill
Bill is \$775 million over President's request**

Washington, D.C.- Wednesday night, Congressman Todd Akin voted against the Interior Appropriations Bill with a price tag \$775 million above the President's request. The bill debated by the House proposed \$19.7 billion in expenditure, which is \$775 million more than was requested by the President.

The Interior Appropriations bill is one of the first four non-defense bills reported by the Appropriations Committee. The proposed expenditures of the four bills are \$1.8 billion above the President's Request.

During consideration of the bill, Congressman Todd Akin spoke on the floor of the House against the excessive spending in the bill. Akin stated that runaway spending has historically caused progressively higher rates of taxation, which harm the economy and place excessive burdens on families.

The Interior Appropriations bill is \$1 billion above last year- more than twice the rate of inflation.

"The proposed levels of spending are excessive and will set an untenable trend as we address the rest of the budget," said Akin. "By being fiscally responsible, we can return to surpluses in the near future, but the spending levels of these appropriation bills will place that goal out of our reach."