

## Braley Secures \$26 Million for Iowa Locks and Dams, Energy Needs

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Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) announced that he secured over \$26 million for Iowa energy and infrastructure needs in the FY 2009 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. This bill was passed yesterday by the House Appropriations Committee.

Specifically, Braley secured \$300,000 for Cedar Falls Utilities Biomass Energy Generation Project, \$2.75 million for rehabilitating Mississippi River Lock and Dam #11 in Dubuque, \$20 million for the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program to construct new locks for the Upper Mississippi River System and \$3 million for the Environmental Management Program to preserve fish and wildlife habitats on the Mississippi River.

The Cedar Falls Utilities funding will be used for research and testing of renewable electric power generation. The Biomass Energy Generation Project, which uses corn stover, prairie grass and switchgrass as fuel, will continue research and development of biomass as a viable alternative to coal.

"The Biomass Energy Generation Project is developing new, alternative energy sources right here in eastern Iowa," Braley said. "I'm pleased that the Cedar Valley can play a vital role in clean energy development. Alternative energy sources like biomass will help decrease our dependence on fossil fuels and make Iowa truly energy independent."

Braley also secured \$2.75 million for Lock and Dam #11, which will be used by the Rock Island Army Corps of Engineers to continue rehabilitation and construction work at the lock and dam site. Lock and Dam #11 was built in the 1930's and has been in continuous operation since.

Braley added, "The Mississippi River lock and dam system was completed in the 1930's, and many parts of this critical infrastructure are in need of modernization. I am proud to have secured funding to rehabilitate Lock and Dam #11, key to Dubuque's economic well being and essential to the Mississippi River barge shipping corridor."

Braley secured \$23 million for repairs and restoration of the Mississippi River. Braley secured \$20 million for the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program which will be used to construct new locks on the Upper Mississippi River System. These new 1200-foot locks will increase river safety while also allowing more efficient barge traffic.

Braley also secured \$3 million in Environmental Management Program funding to continue wildlife protection and environmental restoration efforts on the Mississippi River. Braley secured this Mississippi River funding with a bipartisan coalition that included Congressmen Boswell, Hare, Loeb sack and others.

"I'm pleased that my colleagues and I could work together to ensure this critical funding for the Mississippi River," Braley said. "Mississippi barges carry Iowa agricultural and manufacturing products to the world. That's why it's so important to make sure the locks along the river are revitalized and brought to 21st Century standards."

The legislation now moves to the full House for consideration.