

# Ewing seeks Army Corps river study

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Tom Ewing today reintroduced his legislation to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to study Kankakee River sedimentation and flooding and to recommend solutions.

The legislation was included in last year's water resources development act, which was adopted last year by the House, but not enacted into law.

The legislation calls for a \$500,000 study, intended to take one year.

The study and corps planning would follow a \$350,000, multi-year scientific study of the historic sand load problem of the river. That study was financed by \$150,000 from the U.S. Geological Survey and \$200,000 raised by the local Alliance to Restore the Kankakee.

The idea of the corps funding is to plan courses of action.

In a statement for the House introduction, Ewing, R-Pontiac, said that "the areas surrounding the Kankakee River and some of its tributaries have faced an increasing flood problem in recent years due to sedimentation and other factors. Storms which may not have caused flooding a few years ago, now cause major problems.

"In fact, the County of Kankakee, Illinois, commissioned a floodplain and mapping study of their (sic) own which altered their base flood elevations dramatically." (This is an alteration that has caused considerable controversy and protest from homebuilders who claim the new flood projections are unrealistically high compared to historic experience)."

Ewing continued that: "In these tight budgetary times each funding request deserves strict scrutiny. However, failure to invest \$50,000 for this one-year study will cost the federal government and the citizens of east central Illinois much more in the coming years."