



24 April, 2018

Attn: Senator Amy Klobuchar

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Our organization greatly appreciates your past support and we know that you agree that water quality is very important to sustaining recreational use of the Mississippi River, and you also recognize the river's economic importance in the Twin Cities Metro area. I have enclosed one of our brochures that will describe some of our current projects and concerns, including the following:

- Better water quality will require reductions in excess sediment, as well as monitoring/controlling the runoff that enters the river. Sediment is increasing at an alarming rate, and is filling backwaters and fish spawning areas, and blocking channels and harbors.
- Healthy ecosystems of fish, plants, birds, and other wildlife are negatively impacted by invasive aquatic species, such as carp and zebra mussels. We must work together to slow the advance of these species.
- Public access leads to public understanding and advocacy for the river. Maintaining navigational channels will be critical for encouraging more public access, which will enhance public understanding and support for the river's role in our urban ecosystem. This is why we request thorough studies to be completed before any rash decisions are made to remove any of the existing locks and dams in the Metro area.
- Responsible enjoyment of the river includes education on boating safety and etiquette. We now have six "Life Jacket Loaner Stations" within Pool 2 to help make boating safer.

Our concerns coincide with those of environmental groups, commercial shipping interests, marinas, and sporting and wildlife enthusiasts. If you have additional questions please feel free to contact me via email or telephone for information about our issues, projects and initiatives.

Warm Regards,

Linda Michie, Executive Director
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