

Joint Governors' Proclamation
on
Upper Mississippi River System Management

April 1997

PURPOSE

The purpose of this proclamation is to protect and enhance the future of the Upper Mississippi River System as a multi-purpose resource by setting forth principles governing its management and affirming means and mechanisms for intergovernmental cooperation.

FINDINGS

The Governors of the signatory Upper Mississippi River Basin States jointly find and declare that:

The Upper Mississippi River is a valuable national and regional resource. Its ecological, economic, and cultural significance extends beyond its waters and shoreline communities. The region's prosperity and quality of life are dependent upon the river's continuing viability as a commercial transportation system, an ecologically rich fish and wildlife habitat, a source of water supply, and a recreational resource.

The States, in partnership with the federal government, share a continuing responsibility for the wise use and management of the Upper Mississippi River System. While the federal government's role is an important and long-standing one, the States of the basin possess a unique obligation to manage the waters of the basin in the interest of all the citizens of the region.

The States have historically exercised leadership in promoting the collective stewardship of the resources of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The rich heritage of interstate and intergovernmental collaboration, evidenced by the creation and maintenance of cooperative forums such as the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission and the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, is the States' responsibility to nurture.

The relationship between maintaining a healthy economy and a healthy environment is becoming increasingly clear. Effective management of the Upper Mississippi River System will require enhanced collaboration among all units of government and the pursuit of unified economic and environmental policies.

PRINCIPLES FOR MANAGEMENT

The Governors agree and commit to the following principles for management of the Upper Mississippi River System:

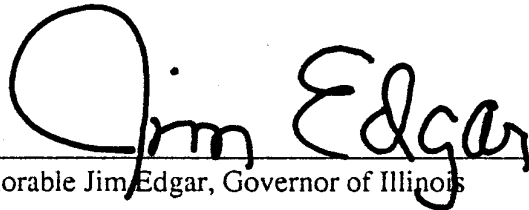
- The Upper Mississippi River System shall be managed to ensure the needs of present generations are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- Comprehensive management for multiple purpose use shall be the foundation of Upper Mississippi River policies and programs. This approach recognizes the multiple objectives which the public expects the river system to serve and integrates environmental and economic decision-making to achieve these objectives.
- The relationship between the river system and its watersheds shall be recognized in management decisions.
- There shall be an appropriate balance of power and responsibility between the federal government and the basin states such that states and federal agencies are permitted and encouraged to work cooperatively to achieve mutual river management objectives.
 - The states shall take responsibility for more fully integrating comprehensive management objectives for the Upper Mississippi River System into their own programs and policies. State agencies shall work cooperatively with one another on an intra- and interstate basis.
 - The federal government shall be expected to unify its policies to reflect comprehensive management and to provide consistency among federal agencies. In addition, the federal government must recognize states as partners in river management.
- Mechanisms to facilitate development and implementation of a common vision and shared goals and objectives for the Upper Mississippi River System shall be established and maintained. Consensus building involving all river constituencies shall be pursued and the anticipated effects of management decisions communicated widely.
- Policy and management decisions shall be based upon scientifically sound environmental and economic analyses.
- Management objectives shall emphasize results and planning shall lead to action. Those actions shall be routinely evaluated and flexibility preserved to adapt to changing needs and conditions.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

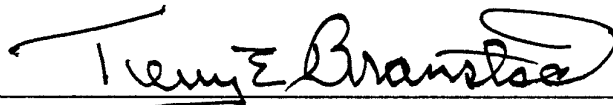
The Governors hereby jointly declare that:

- The states reaffirm their individual and collective support for the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, established in 1981 by representatives of the five basin states.
- The purpose of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association shall be to foster achievement of the above stated principles by facilitating dialogue and cooperative action among its member states and between those states and the federal government.
- The responsibilities of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association shall include, but not be limited to, the study and evaluation of issues of common concern to the member states; creation of opportunities and means for information exchange on policy and scientific matters; review and comment on federal projects, programs, and policies of regional significance; and development and administration of intergovernmental agreements.
- The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association shall provide a forum whereby the Governors seek to unify the states' river-related policies and articulate their mutual concerns and shared vision for management of the Upper Mississippi River.
- In fulfilling its purpose and responsibilities, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association shall be responsive to public concerns, seeking to include all river constituencies in consensus-building.
- Each of the member states of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association shall be represented by designees of the Governor. Those individuals shall be responsible for insuring that all appropriate agencies, boards, commissions, and constituencies of the state are engaged in the deliberations and activities of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association.
- The President of the United States is hereby requested to ensure that all federal departments and agencies with authorities related to the Upper Mississippi River cooperate with the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association and utilize that forum for coordination of their river-related policies and programs with the basin states.

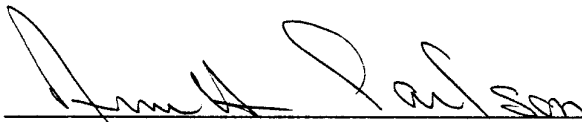
- The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association shall be governed by the Articles of Association executed in 1981 and hereby authorized to be amended as necessary to reflect the principles and declarations of this joint proclamation.
- Nothing in this proclamation nor in the conduct of the affairs of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association shall abrogate the rights and responsibilities of each state to manage its water and related land resources. The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association shall undertake no activities which would be inconsistent with the Compact Clause or the Interstate Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.



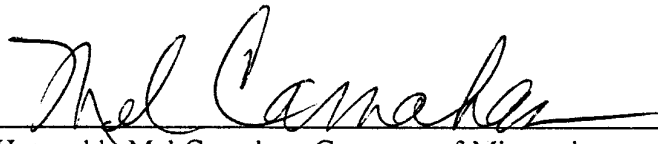
Honorable Jim Edgar, Governor of Illinois



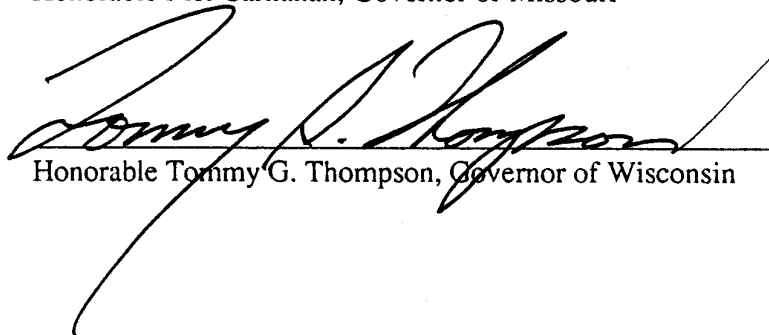
Honorable Terry E. Branstad, Governor of Iowa



Honorable Arne H. Carlson, Governor of Minnesota



Honorable Mel Carnahan, Governor of Missouri



Honorable Tommy G. Thompson, Governor of Wisconsin