



March 20, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
U.S. Senate  
Appropriations Committee  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6025

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate  
Appropriations Committee  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6025

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chair  
U.S. Senate  
Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6025

The Honorable John Neely Kennedy  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate  
Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6025

Dear Chairs Murray and Feinstein, Ranking Members Collins and Kennedy:

As Congress develops its Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations priorities for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, I am writing on behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) to respectfully request funding for the following programs and projects:

— **\$120 million for the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)**

In 2024, NESP will initiate construction of a second 1,200-foot lock chamber at La Grange L&D, construct mooring cells on the Mississippi River to improve navigation efficiency and fish passage at L&D 22, and advance planning and design on six to ten ecosystem restoration projects. In addition, NESP will advance strategic planning and adaptive management of its ecosystem restoration program.

— **\$55 million for the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program**

In FY 2024, UMRR will construct 9 habitat projects and advance planning and design on 14 to 16 habitat projects. These projects integrate a broad range of restoration techniques that strive to use or mimic the

river's natural processes to enhance and protect important fish and wildlife habitat, restore the river's floodplain structure and function, and counteract the factors degrading the river's ecological health. UMRR will continue its long term resource monitoring and research, providing a much clearer understanding of the complex, dynamic relationships among various ecosystem components and watershed drivers.

— **\$1.2 million for renewed flow frequency probabilities and water surface profiles for the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers**

In FY 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will compete the hydraulic routing model and associated flow and climate assessments, employ the analyses, and develop a report of the findings. Flood risk assessments and forecasting capabilities will help to reduce damages and loss of life associated with increasingly frequent and extreme flood events in the Upper Mississippi River. Accurate and accessible information will improve our ability to develop a systemic flood plan and improve management capabilities.

— **Funding to support full capability of the Upper Mississippi River System 9-foot navigation channel operations and maintenance**

UMRBA is the Governor-established forum for interstate water resource planning and management on the Upper Mississippi River, representing its member states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin and working collaboratively with the federal agencies as well as the navigation industry, environmental organizations, local communities, and others who work directly to improve the Upper Mississippi River System. UMRBA's member states are strongly committed to the principles of sustainability and multi-use as the foundation of the river's management. The programs and projects listed above collectively help to improve the health and resilience of the navigation system and ecosystem as well as the many river communities of the Upper Mississippi River System.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 651-224-2880 or [kwallace@umrba.org](mailto:kwallace@umrba.org) to arrange an opportunity to discuss our request in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Walla" followed by a vertical line.

Kirsten Wallace  
Executive Director  
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

cc: Senate Upper Mississippi River Delegation