



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 Jeff Merkley  
Chair  
U.S. Senate  
Interior and Environment Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate  
Interior and Environment Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6025

Dear Chairs Murray and Merkley, Ranking Members Collins and Murkowski:

As Congress develops its Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations priorities for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing on behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) to respectfully request \$25 million for the Gulf Hypoxia Program.

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. UMRBA believes that the Gulf Hypoxia Program (and the Hypoxia Task Force) is a model of good government, focusing on collaboration among states as well as between federal agencies, landowners, commodity groups, land-grant universities, conservation interests, and the private sector.

Through the Gulf Hypoxia Program (and Hypoxia Task Force), a partnership of 12 states, five federal agencies, and tribal partners work collaborative to advance comprehensive water quality solutions designed to reduce nutrient loads in waterways throughout the greater Mississippi River Basin, consistent with the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan. Additionally, conservation practices to reduce nutrient runoff from nonpoint sources have many supplemental national benefits such as habitat for wildlife and pollinator species and water storage.

7831 East Bush Lake Road, Ste 302  
Bloomington, MN 55439  
651-224-2880  
[www.umrba.org](http://www.umrba.org)

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In FY 2024, the funding request would support the implementation of state nutrient reduction strategies and modeling tools to understand the cumulative effects of these strategies on mitigating hypoxia.

Please contact me at 651-224-2880 to arrange an opportunity to discuss our request in more detail.

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 "Kirsten Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "W".

Kirsten Wallace  
Executive Director  
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

cc: House Upper Mississippi River Delegation



