



February 3, 2026

Mr. Adam Telle
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Telle:

As the Administration develops its funding allocations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the discretionary monies provided through the FY 2026 energy and water appropriations measure, I am writing on behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) to respectfully request the following priorities related to USACE's programs and projects on the Upper Mississippi River System:

— \$1 million for the Upper Mississippi River System Flow Frequency Study

In FY 2026, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will complete 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 are necessary to reduce damages and loss of life associated with increasingly frequent and major 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.

— \$1 million for the Upper Mississippi River System Flood Risk Reduction and Resiliency Study

In FY 2026, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the five Upper Mississippi River states, and UMRBA will develop a scope and schedule for implementing the Upper Mississippi River System Flood Risk Reduction and Resiliency Study, and design and begin employing a public participation and engagement strategy.

— Available funds for the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)

In FY 2026, NESP has built capacity to implement ecosystem projects as well as implement forest stewardship activities and stands ready to efficiently and effectively execute available funds for ecosystem restoration.

UMRBA is pleased that the FY 2026 energy and waters appropriations measure sustains the President's budget request of \$52 million for the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program as well as funding for the operations and maintenance of the Upper Mississippi River System's 9-foot navigation channel.

UMRR increases the quantity and quality of habitat on the Upper Mississippi River System through habitat rehabilitation and enhancement projects, and UMRR enhances systems-level knowledge of the Upper

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Mississippi River System by assessing the status and trends of the river ecosystem through long term resource monitoring.

By way of background, UMRBA is the Governor-established forum for interstate water resource planning and management on the Upper Mississippi River System, representing its member states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Formed in 1981, UMRBA represents its member states' common water resource interests and works collaboratively with Upper Mississippi federal and state agencies as well as other non-federal partners. UMRBA and USACE as well as other federal agency partners enjoy a long history and strong partnership in our shared commitment to multi-use management of the Upper Mississippi River System.

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

Sincerely,



Kirsten Wallace
Executive Director
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

cc: Upper Mississippi River Congressional Delegation
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters