



February 19, 2026

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

Rep. Tom Cole, Chair  
Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sen. John Kennedy, Chair  
Sen. Patty Murray, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate  
Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
S-188, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6025

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, Chair  
Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members of the Appropriations Committee and Energy and Water Subcommittee:

As Congress develops its Fiscal Year 2027 energy and water appropriations priorities, I am writing on behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) to respectfully request important investment opportunities in the areas of commercial navigation, flood risk reduction and resiliency, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

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.

Specifically, UMRBA respectfully requests the following FY 2027 appropriations:

— **\$350 million for the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)**

This appropriation will fund the ongoing construction of a second 1,200-foot lock chamber at L&D 25, important for improving navigation efficiency and reliability. This appropriation will fund the construction, design, and planning of projects to improve the river's ecological processes and integrity. This includes projects to restore flow diversity and connectivity, sediment dynamics, and habitat conditions for various fish and wildlife species.

— **\$52 million for the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program**

In FY 2027, UMRR will implement 24 habitat projects across five states and three Corps Districts. Of these

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29 projects, UMRR will be actively constructing 7 projects and advance planning and design on 22 habitat projects. These projects integrate a broad range of restoration techniques that enhance and protect important fish and wildlife habitat and restore the river's floodplain structure and function. 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 million to complete renewed flow frequency probabilities and water surface profiles for the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers**

In FY 2027, 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 2027, 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. This effort will include employing a public participation and engagement strategy to create dialogue among stakeholders.

— **Full utilization of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to support inland navigation new construction and major rehabilitation projects**

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

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,



Kirsten Wallace  
Executive Director  
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

cc: Upper Mississippi River Congressional Delegation  
Assistant Secretary for the Army of Civil Works  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters