



August 26, 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 FY 2028 budget recommendation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), I am writing on behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) to respectfully request the inclusion of navigation, ecosystem, and flood risk management programs and projects on the Upper Mississippi River System as listed below.

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.

The UMRBA FY 2028 programs and projects are:

- The Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program (UMRR)
- The Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)
- The Upper Mississippi River System Flow Frequency Study
- The Upper Mississippi River System Flood Risk Reduction and Resiliency Study
- Lock rehabilitation and maintenance
- Navigation channel maintenance and management

UMRBA commends USACE's commitment to excellence in managing the Upper Mississippi River System. We believe strongly that USACE in the St. Paul, Rock Island, and St. Louis Districts exemplify the principles of the "Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork" initiative. Projects are largely executed on or under budget and on or ahead of schedule, and with positive outcomes that are supported by partners. The Upper Mississippi River System is a highly valuable national resources, and therefore, we would strongly encourage allocating the personnel resources to maintain USACE's ability to execute projects efficiently and effectively.

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We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 651-224-2880 or kwallace@umrba.org if you have any questions about the USACE work in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. We will also follow up with your team to arrange a meeting to discuss our request in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Wallace", with a light blue horizontal line underneath.

Kirsten Wallace
Executive Director
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

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