



August 26, 2026

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

As you develop the Administration's FY 2028 budget recommendation for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing on behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) to respectfully request the inclusion of funding for the Gulf Hypoxia Program.

By way of background, UMRBA is the Governor-established organization to promote the common interests of the states regarding the management of the Upper Mississippi River Basin, especially in relation to federal management of actions affecting the river. This remains the work of UMRBA today. UMRBA, in partnership with the federal government, share a continuing and abiding responsibility to maintain and enhance all aspects of the Upper Mississippi River Basin's water resources.

As member states of the Mississippi River/Gulf of America Watershed Nutrient Task Force (herein referred to as the Hypoxia Task Force), we strongly value our partnership with USPEA and believe the Hypoxia Task Force is a model of good government, focusing on collaboration among state governments as well as landowners, commodity groups, land-grant universities, conservation interests, and the private sector. These partnerships are fundamental to achieving the nation's goals for reductions in nutrient loading.

We recognize and appreciate the ongoing financial and technical support from various federal programs. And, at the same time, we acknowledge the tremendous value associated with dedicated funding to states to implement the nutrient reduction strategies. States have used the dedicated funding in a variety of ways, unique to each state's ability to accelerate the adoption of agricultural practices and other measures that reduce nutrient loading in the basin's lakes and rivers.

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

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