

**Resolution
To Target Critical Nonpoint Source
Agricultural Pollutant Producing Areas
Within the Upper Mississippi River Basin
as Eligible for Inclusion in the
Water Quality Incentives Program**

WHEREAS, the Upper Mississippi River is a unique and valuable resource of national importance that supports a multitude of uses, and

WHEREAS, the river is a shared resource forming the borders of the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the Upper Mississippi River Basin is one of the most agriculturally productive regions of the country, and

WHEREAS, nonpoint source agricultural pollutants - sediments, pesticides, and nutrients - from within the basin are one of the leading causes of water quality degradation on the river, and

WHEREAS, the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-624) authorized the establishment of the Water Quality Incentives Program to improve water quality while maintaining agricultural productivity by encouraging farmers in targeted areas to implement water quality plans, and


WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to confer program eligibility upon areas recommended by State lead agencies for environmental protection, and

WHEREAS, the river has been recognized by Congress as a "nationally significant ecosystem" warranting protection under the program,

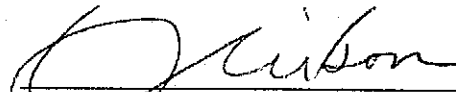
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned hereby recommend to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture that farmland within the Upper Mississippi River Basin be designated as eligible for inclusion in the Water Quality Incentives Program, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that program funds be targeted to those areas that the undersigned state lead agencies, in consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, identify as those counties or watersheds which contribute most directly to nonpoint source agricultural pollutants in the Upper Mississippi River, and


FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the effectiveness of the relatively limited resources projected to be available for financial and technical assistance under this program be increased by further focusing them within designated areas to those subareas causing the greatest localized negative impacts; subareas contributing to the degradation of backwater areas and river segments most likely to respond positively to reductions in nonpoint source agricultural pollutants; and subareas that can receive concurrent attention from other programs.



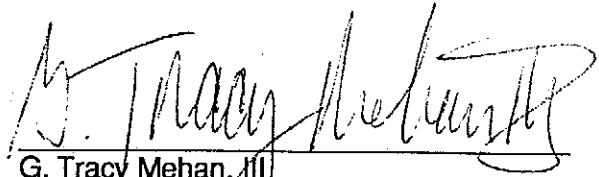
Mary A. Gade
Director, Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency



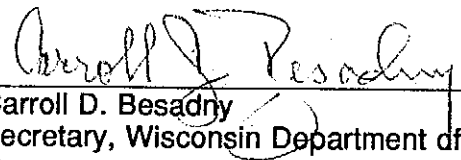
Larry Wilson
Director, Iowa Department of Natural
Resources



Charles W. Williams
Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency



G. Tracy Mehan, III
Director, Missouri Department of Natural
Resources



Carroll D. Besadny
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources