

Dear Mr. Genz:

Thank you for participating in the Mississippi River Commission public meeting held in Marquette, Iowa, on August 12, 2002.

We appreciated hearing your testimony on behalf of Mr. Timothy Paurus regarding the increase in recreational boating on the river and the need to move forward with the Navigation Study. We recognize the importance of good navigation infrastructure. The challenge is to preserve the Mississippi River ecosystem, while at the same time meet the needs of transportation, recreation, and tourism in the region. Be assured that all aspects of any navigation project proposal will be fully investigated and documented in the Navigation Study.

You mentioned that the Mississippi River Commission does not include a member from the upper Mississippi River basin. The President of the United States appoints members to the Commission based on input from Congressional, non-government organizations, and citizens of the valley. The Commission's seven members, who are physically located in Ohio, Oregon, Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, are committed to representing the interests of all river users along the entire river system.

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The Commission values your views and comments. We look forward to your continued participation as we work to address the many economic, environmental, and recreational issues of the upper Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President, Mississippi River

Commission