

Dear Ms. Haake:

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

In your statement you outlined the importance of the Minnesota River and its impact on the Mississippi River. The watershed districts are providing a valuable service by using best management practices to provide good water quality and to prevent sediment from flowing into the Mississippi River from streams, creeks, and smaller rivers. As you mentioned, the benefits from this careful approach are already evident in the return of birds and wildlife to the river valley.

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.

We appreciated hearing your kind remarks about the St. Paul District's courteous and helpful lock and dam operators and the harbor and channel maintenance work performed by the District.

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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