

Dear Mr. Larson:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 11, 2003.

The Commission agrees with your statement concerning the importance of a management plan that enhances the environmental, recreational, and navigational benefits of the Mississippi River. This view is evidenced by your organization's support of the Environmental Management Program and the pool drawdown, as well as your emphasis on the need for commercial navigation improvements. As you mentioned, efficient waterway navigation is crucial for Midwest farmers to maintain leadership in world grain markets by providing a safe, economical, and environmentally sound mode for transporting agricultural products.

The Commission appreciates receiving your views and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission