

Dear Mr. McGuinness:

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

We enjoyed the opportunity once again to experience our national treasure, the Mississippi River, which is so aptly called "America's Main Stream and America's Main Street" by Audubon. Clearly, the people of the Upper Midwest value both the navigation system and the environmental quality of the river.

We applaud the work Audubon is doing in preparation for the public meetings in October 2003 and the report to Congress in 2004 concerning the future of the river. Your organization is providing a significant service by educating citizens about the importance of the river for birds, fish, wildlife, and people. It was gratifying to hear your support for a river management plan that balances both navigation and ecosystem values.

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