

Dear Ms. Muench:

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 appreciates your testimony concerning the need for safe navigation, lock modernization on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and reliable navigation on the Missouri River. We believe your proposal to use the current smaller locks to provide safe passage for recreational boaters merits consideration. As you indicated, efficient waterway navigation is crucial for Midwest farmers to maintain leadership in world grain markets by providing a safe, economical, and environmentally sound mode of transporting agricultural products. We concur with you that the flows contributed by the Missouri River are an important component of a reliable navigation system.

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