

Dear Mr. Paurus:

Thank you for the statement made on your behalf by Mr. Russell Eichman before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 11, 2003.

We share your commitment to adequately fund water resources infrastructure development, maintenance, and repair. The Commission recognizes that there currently are competing interests for Federal funding, including the war on terrorism, homeland security, and the requirement to balance the Federal budget. We concur in your observations that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has the personnel, experience, and skills necessary to manage the Nation's water resources.

The Commission appreciates receiving the views of the Upper Mississippi Waterway Association and will be pleased to hear from your organization at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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

Copy furnished separately to:

Mr. Russell Eichman
Chairman of the Board
Upper Mississippi Waterway Association
P.O. Box 7006
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107