

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

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JUN 06 2008

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

P.C # 45

June 4, 2008

RE: Rule Making R08-009

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

We are writing to express our support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

From our residence overlooking the river at Wolf Point we regularly see active and growing use of our river for a variety of purposes. Individuals should be able use the river for kayaking, sail boating, or canoeing without being vulnerable to diseases. A thriving and diverse community of wildlife, including fish, birds, and mammals, is essential to the health of the river.

Accordingly we urge support of the following:

- The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District must disinfect sewage treatment plant effluent to kill bacteria and protect public health.
- Temperature and dissolved oxygen standards must be implemented to protect fish and help them flourish.

The City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and suburbs like Blue Island and Skokie have poured millions into river access for paddling, fishing, and crew. And so much work has been done to improve habitat and control pollution that in the Chicago River system, species of fish have climbed from under 10 to nearly 70, including game fish favorites like large-mouth bass and bluegill and yellow perch.

Because a review like this only comes along every 20 years, right now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to continue our momentum by supporting the Illinois EPA recommendations so we can make the next quantum leap forward in water quality.

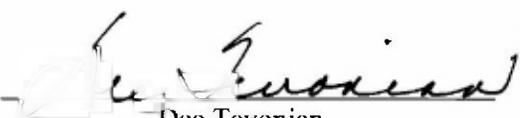
There is no magic bullet or all-in-one measure that can eliminate water pollution. However if we want the Chicago River to continue to improve and serve our communities as a recreational, natural and economic resource, disinfection and the rest of the Illinois EPA's recommendations are essential.

We believe that as a society it is our moral obligation to ensure that we work to achieve the highest potential for shared resources, including and especially water. As stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,



Ron Tevonian



Dee Tevonian

333 N. Canal St. #2404
Chicago IL 60606
312-798-6850