

October 5, 2009

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

PCA# 248

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

RE: Rule Making R08-009

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

I am writing to express my 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. These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. It is critical that we not only support, the Illinois EPA's effort, but implement the proposed changes.

As a candidate for Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, I think it is critical that:

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

I believe that it is a moral imperative that we work to achieve the highest possible water quality for our waterways. For too long the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District has spent time and money *fighting* the Illinois EPA, rather than listening to, and acting on its findings.

The Illinois EPA's recommendations cannot be ignored if we are truly committed to improving the quality of our waterways. Because a review like this only comes along every 30 years, right now we have a rare opportunity to improve the quality of our waterways by implementing disinfection and the rest of the Illinois EPA's recommendations.

Thank you,



Todd Connor
Candidate for Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
773-355-1377