

**Lara Smetana**

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COMMENT OF LARA SMETANA ON R18-18 REGULATORY RELIEF MECHANISMS

December 5, 2017

Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph  
Suite 11-500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

The Pollution Control Board should adopt regulations that make our waters as clean as possible as soon as possible. The Board should beware of adopting any rules that would allow polluters to delay meeting standards that protect public health, aquatic life, wildlife or recreational opportunities.

I live and work in Chicago and enjoy canoeing, biking, running and frequenting businesses and city parks near the North Shore Channel, the North Branch of the Chicago River and other Chicago area waters. I also enjoy introducing my pre-service teachers and their students to the river, an important and iconic component of our city's history and landscape. I would enjoy these experiences more if the waters had less algae and invasive plants, floating debris and odors. I am also worried about children and school programs that play and participate in learning experiences in these waters.

I am looking forward to the day that more and more Illinois waters are truly suitable for fishing, swimming and use for drinking water supply. Please make sure that the final rules that come out of R18-18 cause our rivers, lakes and streams to be clean up as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lara K. Smetana, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, School of Education  
Loyola University Chicago