

Barbara G. Figler
1167 Heather Lane * Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
630-627-6433
630-935-6433 – Cell
bfigler@ballhort.com
bfgallo1@yahoo.com
bfgallo@hotmail.com

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

APR 01 2008

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PC#18

March 21, 2008

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

RE: Rule Making R08-009

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of my family, 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. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

As an Illinois resident and paddler, 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.

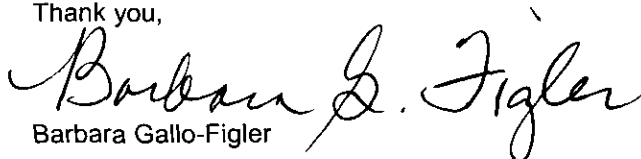
I did a paddle on the River this summer ... first time on the River since boating with my dad as a kid. He must have threatened my brothers and me really good about going through the locks and not messing around, because 30+ years later, I envisioned myself falling in and becoming green, radioactive (remember the bomb air-raids at the Chicago schools in the 50s and 60s?) and covered with poop. As a young adult, I visited San Antonio for the first time (my favorite city next to Chicago) and wondered why we didn't take advantage of the natural resource of our River like they've done with their River Walk.

I'm told that a review like this only comes along every 20 years. If that's correct, then we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to continue the cleaning of our river by supporting the Illinois EPA recommendations, which can make the next quantum leap forward in water quality.

There is no magic bullet and or all-in-one measure that can eliminate water pollution but we know that 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.

I 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. And as stewards of these natural resources, we should not be seeking the minimum in improvement, but the maximum.

Thank you,


Barbara Gallo-Figler