

Jan. 30. 2008

Tom Hall  
1936 N. Clark #10  
Chicago IL 60614

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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

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

PC# 3

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

Please put me on record as a strong supporter of Rule Making R08-009: the proposed water quality standard improvements recommended by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as.

As a rower and kayaker and as one drawn to the Chicago River by both sentiment and dedication, I have been encouraged over the last 40 years as the waterway evolved from a toxic sewage ditch to a river on the verge of miraculous rebirth. In the last 10 years I saw flora and fauna emerge incredibly out of industrial effluence. At some point I began to sense that the river's notoriously vile stench was abating. I came to enjoy the presence of the Chicago River as much as I had espoused its potential.

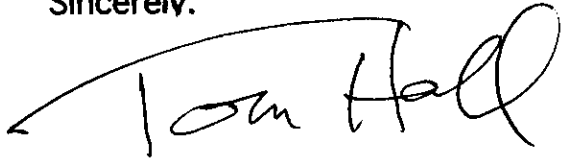
All this happened in many small steps. Commitments were made, standards raised, funds applied, and actions taken; though decades passed with few visible signs of progress toward a seemingly illusory vision of a clean river running through the city. Now, with that vision beginning to seem a real possibility—if still a distant one—the next small step up for consideration is R08-009, the proposal to raise the standards yet again, to commence the next phase of the ongoing reclamation of the Chicago River.

I expect the usual objectors will pose the usual fiscal presumptions—that higher standards would cost too much, that the benefits wouldn't justify the sacrifices. (Someone surely will contend that this one small step

would cost more than the sum of all previous small steps.) But those old arguments come undone against market imperatives in which riverside property values have increased exponentially in expectation of river rebirth: real money is being invested in this. When comprehensive economics are put in perspective, Rule Making R08-009 proves to be as good for business as for the environment.

So please press on with the next small step toward the rescue of the Chicago River. Don't stop now just because efforts are finally showing progress. Please put Rule Making R08-009 into effect and raise the standards—and bring back the river.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Tom Hall  
1936 N. Clark # 10  
Chicago IL 606--