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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

June 13, 2008

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

RE: Rule Making **R08-009**

PC53

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the nation's leading recreational marine industry trade association—which is based in Chicago—is pleased to provide this letter expressing support the Control Board's long overdue efforts to enhance the water quality of the Chicago River and area waterways. Specifically, NMMA supports recommended water quality improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River in Rulemaking R08-009 that would improve the health of aquatic life and enhance recreational opportunities through the disinfection of wastewater treatment plant effluent and temperature control standards.

NMMA represents nearly 1,700 boat builders, engine manufacturers, and marine accessory manufacturers who collectively produce more than 80 percent of all recreational marine products made in the United States. In the Chicago area, there are approximately 28,546 registered recreational boats. Chicago area boaters spend approximately \$110 million on recreational marine products, services and boating trip spending each year during more than 587,000 total days spent boating. Clearly, recreational boating is of major economic significance in the Chicago area and initiatives to make boating more accessible and enjoyable should be pursued.

Recreational boating and fishing are valuable American traditions that bring important economic benefits to waterfront communities—and clean, healthy waterways are vital to these pursuits. NMMA recognizes that the Chicago Area Waterways have improved significantly through the leadership of agencies like the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Public access has expanded to due local government initiatives. The City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and suburbs 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 yellow perch.

The IPCB has an opportunity to continue this forward progress by requiring the disinfection of wastewater in particular, and NMMA is pleased to support this important initiative to upgrade the river system.

Sincerely,

Mathew P. Dunn  
Manager, Natural Resources & Economic Policy

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