

MARK STEVEN KIRK  
10TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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JUN 27 2008

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

PC#75

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

Re: Rule Making R08-009

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

As the Representative for the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I am writing in support of the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule R08-009.

The Sierra Legal Defense Fund estimates that 24 billion gallons of sewage are dumped into the great lakes each year. In my own district, there were 118 instances of contamination exceeding health standards, affecting 52 percent of our beaches in 2006. We know the damage this type of pollution can cause.

Chicago is the only major city that does not disinfect its sewage. As a strong advocate for the environment and public health, I support the proposed rule which would improve aquatic life and enhance water quality – two worthy goals. With pregnant women, young children, and the elderly more susceptible to viral and bacteriological pathogens contained in the sewage, these changes are essential.

I applaud the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for all of their hard work in protecting the cities water quality. I fully support this needed project and support the rule's swift adoption.

Sincerely,



Mark Steven Kirk  
Member of Congress