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Lemont, IL 60439  
March 22 ,2008

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MAR 25 2008

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

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

**RE: Rule Making R08-009**

PC#11

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

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 (in 1973 we were told that there would be potable water in the Des Plaines River within 10 years) 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.

I am a frequent paddler on the lower Des Plaines (twice a week from April to November). I am also a member of the Illinois Paddling Council which is working to improve access to Illinois rivers, Des Plaines River Association, the Trails Committee of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and other organizations that promote recreational use of our natural assets. 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.

Over the years, the entire CAWS system has changed dramatically. The water, once full of raw sewage and industrial filth, has vastly improved through the leadership of agencies like the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and its Tunnel and Reservoir Plan. Public access has increased considerably as local governments incorporated these rivers into their master planning. The City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and many 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 bluegill and yellow perch.

Because a review like this only comes along every 20 years, right now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to continue our momentum by supporting the Illinois EPA recommendations so we 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 Des Plaines and Chicago Rivers 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,

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Mueggenborg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Don Mueggenborg

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