

Marion County Drainage District  
510 W. Water Street  
Palmyra, MO 63461

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November 18, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)  
441 G Street NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

RE: Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014  
Levee Improvement for the Marion County Drainage District

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

The Marion County Drainage District appreciates the opportunity to provide a Section 7001 Proposal in accordance with the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. The attached proposal describes our proposed levee modification project.

In short, our levee system was last improved in 1967 in accordance with the 1954 Flood Control Act. We wish to improve our levee to the 200-year level of protection, adequate for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Certification and to provide additional protection for our landowners. Our District has witnessed multiple high water events, overtopping in 1973, 1993 and 2008. The cost of flood fighting and levee rehabilitation has led to our need to permanently improve our levee system. The proposed improvement would potentially reduce these costs that are typically compensated by FEMA or through the PL84-99 USACE program.

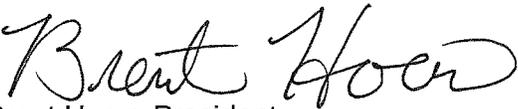
An improvement to our levee system and surrounding levee systems (as recommended by the Mississippi River Commission in the Upper Mississippi Comprehensive Plan) would increase protection to human health, and strengthen the local, regional, and national economies. Our District alone has prevented approximately \$26 million in damages to infrastructure and agriculture since 1973. If combined with the other Districts studied in the Comp Plan, the importance to our national economy becomes apparent.

Our District is willing to take on the expense for this project, but wish to have federal approval before proceeding. Again, we appreciate being able to submit this proposal and look forward to working with you in the future.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

MARION COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT



Brent Hoerr, President

C: Senator Claire McCaskill  
Senator Roy Blunt  
Representative Sam Graves

Enclosure: Section 7001 Proposal for Levee Improvement, Location/Fact Map, Letters of Support

**Non-Federal Interest:** Marion County Drainage District is the project sponsor and sole project contributor. However, other local, non-federal interests have contributed to this project previously.

**Proposed Project:** The proposed project is a modification to an existing United States Army Corps of Engineers project, the Marion County Drainage District's levee. The levee was federally improved as a part of the 1954 Flood Control Act (House Document 281/83/2). The proposed project would improve the existing levee from an approximately 50-year design to a 200-year design. The 200-year design would include freeboard and would be sufficient to meet FEMA certification requirements, plus additional consideration due to uncertainties in climate change. This improvement would require additional sand and earthen material to raise the levee footprint. The levee would be improved within existing levee Right of Way, retaining its current riverside configuration. The project will include permitting work, assessment of environmental impacts, and right-of-way. This proposed improvement would be a frequency based design, meaning that if/when the flow, frequency profiles were to change the levee could be modified to retain its 200-year level of protection.

**Project Purpose:** The Marion County Drainage District (District) is located in Marion County, along the west bank of the Mississippi River from River Mile 323.5 to 320.7. The Marion County Drainage District was established in 1912. The District was established to protect approximately 4,000 acres, and aid in the reduction of waterborne disease. The original levees were improved a part of the 1954 Flood Control Act.

The District's original levee improvement was based upon pre-1950s methodologies and datasets. Since that time, new data has become available and the new flood trends that have been experienced. The current data indicates that at the nearest gauge, since 1947, the odds of a flood event occurring that exceeds major flood stage are approximately 1 in 4 (~15 events). If this dataset is condensed to the past 10 years the odds jump to 1 in 2.5 (~4 different events).

The District flood fights during significant flood events by pushing up their sand levee and sandbagging where necessary. When the flooding subsides, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding is applied for to cover flood fighting expenses. If the flood fighting was unsuccessful and the levee overtopped, then the District would apply for funding from USACE under Public Law 84-99 for repairs. This cycle of flood fighting or overtopping followed by the application for funding has occurred many times since the improvements of the 1960s and at great federal and local expense.

The Marion County Drainage District provides a significant economic benefit to its surrounding region. It has been estimated by USACE MVR that the District has prevented approximately \$26,023,600 in damages since 1973. The levee protects critical aspects of the local economy, and if lumped together with the other Districts that need improvements in this region, can sum to significant regional or even national economic impact.

The proposed project is within the recommendations of the Mississippi River Commission's (MRC) for the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan (UMRCP), dated August 14, 2008.

**Project Estimate:** Approximately \$12,150,000, which includes necessary permitting, engineering, and construction activities.

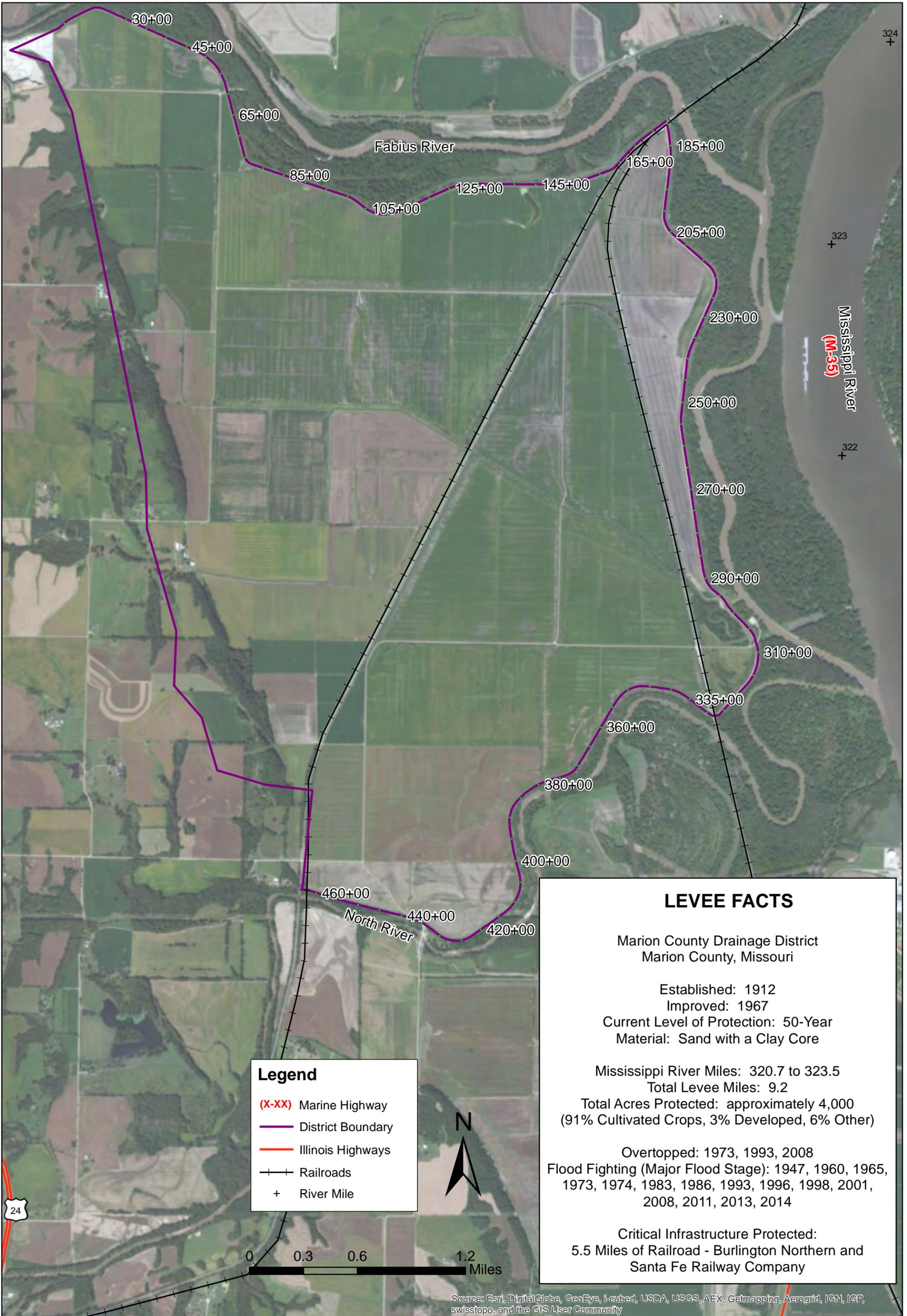
**Project Benefits:** The proposed project would protect approximately 5.5 miles of railroad, approximately 4,000 acres of prime farmland, and residential structures. The proposed project would provide additional protection to human health and landowner investments beyond the existing estimated prevented annual damage of approximately \$650,000 (value estimated from USACE MVR calculations).

This District is a portion of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Levee System, which was found to provide direct or indirect protection to major roadway and railway bridges that cross the Mississippi or Illinois Rivers. A study entitled *Detour and Transportation Infrastructure Costs Due to a Major Flood Event on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers* by the Center for Transportation Research at the University of Tennessee found that the total costs of detour, road damage, and highway damage due to a major flood event was \$1.027 billion. This District provides a portion of this transportation benefit.

**Project Support:** The District's Board supports this project and other levee and drainage districts in the surrounding area are supportive and seeking their own improvements, in accordance with the UMRCP.

**Project Cost Share:** No federal cost share required. Project planned at 100% local sponsor cost. However, if funding is made available under the National Levee Safety Act (Title IX of WRDA 2007), the Comprehensive Plan (Section 459 of WRDA 1999), or other USACE funding, it would be of great assistance to improve public health and safety for the Upper Mississippi River.

**Project Letter of Support:** See attached letter from the District Commissioners and other letters of support.



**Legend**

- (X-XX) Marine Highway
- District Boundary
- Illinois Highways
- + Railroads
- + River Mile

**LEVEE FACTS**

Marion County Drainage District  
Marion County, Missouri

Established: 1912  
Improved: 1967  
Current Level of Protection: 50-Year  
Material: Sand with a Clay Core

Mississippi River Miles: 320.7 to 323.5  
Total Levee Miles: 9.2  
Total Acres Protected: approximately 4,000  
(91% Cultivated Crops, 3% Developed, 6% Other)

Overtopped: 1973, 1993, 2008  
Flood Fighting (Major Flood Stage): 1947, 1960, 1965,  
1973, 1974, 1983, 1986, 1993, 1996, 1998, 2001,  
2008, 2011, 2013, 2014

Critical Infrastructure Protected:  
5.5 Miles of Railroad - Burlington Northern and  
Santa Fe Railway Company

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

GENERAL LOCATION	1
SHEET	1

MARION COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT	
501 W WATER PALMYRA, MO 63461	
PROJECT NO.	14-0913
DRAWING DATE	11/17/2014
SHEET TITLE	

SCALE: 1 INCH = 1 MILE	
DESIGNED WEK	
DRAWN WEK	
FIELD BOOK	
CHECKED	
CHECK DATE	
FILE NAME	XXX

NO.	APPR.	REVISION DESCRIPTION	DATE

FULL SCALE DRAWING SIZE: 22" x 34"

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**KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
Engineers • Architects • Surveyors

616 North 24th Street, Quincy, IL  
4510 Paris Gravel Road, Hannibal, MO  
610 N. 4th Street, Suite 100, Burlington, IA  
49 North Prairie Street, Galesburg, IL

Ph 217.223.3670 • Fax 217.223.3603  
Ph 573.221.0020 • Fax 573.221.0012  
Ph 319.752.3603 • Fax 319.752.3605  
Ph 309.342.4042 • Fax 309.341.3781

Internet Address: [www.klingner.com](http://www.klingner.com)

LARRY WELCH  
Eastern District Commissioner  
Hannibal, MO

LYNDON BODE  
Presiding Commissioner  
Hannibal, MO

RANDY SPRATT  
Western District Commissioner  
Palmyra, MO

# MARION COUNTY COMMISSION

Phone: 573-769-2549

VALERIE DORNBERGER, COUNTY CLERK  
Marion County Courthouse - 100 South Main Street, Suite 107  
Palmyra, Missouri 63461-1661

Fax: 573-769-4312

December 1, 2014

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
ATTN: CECW@-CE Lisa Keifel  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

RE: Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014

Dear Ms. Kiefel,

On behalf of Marion County, Missouri, the Marion County Commission is sending this letter of support of the Marion County Drainage District's proposal in accordance with the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

Their levee system was overtopped in 1973 and 1993 and encroached upon in many other years. This proposal to improve their levee system to the 200 year level of protection will provide additional protection for area landowners, infrastructure and commercial/industrial businesses located in the area.

This improvement to area levee systems would provide protection to human health and safety. It would also strengthen our local and regional economy as well as the national economy by preventing crop destruction and detours and damage to the Avenue of the Saints, US 61 and US 24. The transportation impact alone amounted to 1.03 billion dollars over 20 years ago.

The Marion County Drainage District is willing to take on the expense for this project, but need to have federal approval so they can proceed. The Marion County Commissioner's hope is that you will consider this proposal that is so important to Marion County and the surrounding region.

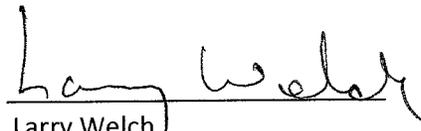
Sincerely,



Lyndon Bode  
Presiding Commissioner



Randy Spratt  
Western Commissioner



Larry Welch  
Eastern Commissioner

# City of Palmyra

301 S. MAIN • BOX 32  
Palmyra, MO 63461-0032

Loren Graham, Mayor

Deena L. Parsons, City Clerk

TELEPHONE (573) 769-2223

FAX (573) 769-4762

November 24, 2014

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

RE: Section 7—1 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014  
Support for Marion County Drainage District levee improvements

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

It has come to our attention that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is accepting proposals for modification to federal projects under Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development ACT (WRDA) 2014. I would like to voice our support and recommend action on these proposals in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Especially, for the proposal to improve the Marion County Drainage District levee.

The City of Palmyra maintains three wells located in the Marion County Drainage District, that supply the city with our finished water. These wells are our only source to supply the citizens of Palmyra with water.

The ability to provide a high level of protection from Mississippi River flooding is vital to protecting the water supply to the City of Palmyra, Missouri. The Marion County Drainage District levee has been operated and maintained to a very high standard. An increased level of protection and a protection level that is frequency based would further increase safety levels for the city's water supply.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter and hope that sincere consideration be given to these Section 7001 Proposals.

Sincerely,



Loren L Graham  
Mayor, City of Palmyra, Missouri

**Meagan Kaiser**

*Executive Director*

**Michael Klingner**

*Chairman, Illinois*

**Vicki Stoller**

*Vice Chairman, Iowa*

**Dianne Barnett**

*Treasurer, Illinois*

**David McMurray**

*Executive Committee, Iowa*

**John Winkelman**

*Executive Committee, Missouri*

**Jason Hutcheson**

*Director, Iowa*



*P.O. Box 418, Bowling Green, MO 63334  
573.489.9173*

**Joseph B. Gibbs, PE**

*Director, Missouri*

**Philip Held**

*Director, Missouri*

**Al Muhlenbruck**

*Director, Iowa*

**Brent Hoerr**

*Director, Missouri*

**Jim Koeller**

*Director, Illinois*

**Roger Sutter**

*Director, Missouri*

**Kevin Rund**

*Director, Illinois*

December 1, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CECW-CE (Lisa Keifel)  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

RE: Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014

Dear Ms. Keifel,

Established in 1954, UMIMRA is a grassroots stakeholder organization advocating for a stronger Upper Mississippi Valley through flood control. Reliable flood control leads to a more reliable navigation channel, economic development, and a better way of life for the communities along the river. UMIMRA works closely with local, state, and federal legislators, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies to ensure our members concerns are heard.

UMIMRA sends this letter of support for the Marion County Drainage District application. The District was established to protect 4,000 acres and aid in the reduction of waterborne illness. It has been estimated that the District has prevented approximately \$26,023,600 in damages since 1973.

The proposed project would protect approximately 5.5 miles of railroad, approximately 4,000 acres of prime farmland, and residential structures. The proposed project would provide additional protection for human health and these roadways, railways, and businesses beyond the existing estimated annual damages prevented of approximately \$650,000 million.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Meagan Kaiser'.

Meagan Kaiser, Executive Director  
Upper Mississippi, Illinois, & Missouri  
Rivers Association