



*Working to protect the Mississippi River
and its watershed in the Twin Cities area.*

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August 10, 2023

Re: Support for inclusion of greenhouse gas lifecycle emissions in the environmental review process

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board,

On behalf of Friends of the Mississippi River, I am writing to express our support for the board's proposed continuous improvement process for environmental review, including lifecycle analysis of greenhouse gas emissions. We appreciate your leadership and emphasize the urgency with which the board must act in implementing this plan.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a non-profit organization with a mission to engage community members and other stakeholders to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities Region. We represent thousands of people in the metropolitan area who care deeply about the river, including over 6,000 who participate as FMR advocates, volunteers, and members each year.

As part of our commitment to the Mississippi River, we are strongly in favor of plans that protect both the river and future generations from projects that could cause damage to the ecosystem and our communities. We commend you for your commitment to include lifecycle analysis of greenhouse gas emissions in this plan and encourage its expedited adoption into the environmental review process.

Climate change and the health of the Mississippi River are inextricably intertwined. Understanding the full breadth of environmental consequences of a project is an imperative part of addressing climate change and improving the health of our communities. The EQB has a unique opportunity with Minnesota's current administration to enact lasting changes regardless of who is in a position of power. We commend your efforts and leadership to improve the environmental review process and join other states in prioritizing future generations.

This plan is a great step forward, and we urge you to expedite the timelines for allocating additional staff to ensure the thorough implementation of this plan. It has become exceedingly clear this summer that climate change is happening now. We do not have time to delay in assessing whether future projects will exacerbate the effects of what is already upon us.

At FMR, we dream of a future where generations continue to make memories on the river with clean water and an abundance of life. Implementing this plan is a key way in which that can be accomplished, but only if that process begins as promptly as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For the river,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maddie Miller".

Maddie Miller
Grassroots Organizing Coordinator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Trevor Russell".

Trevor Russell
Water Program Director