



May 2, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Chair  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Cole and Fleischmann, Ranking Members DeLauro and Kaptur:

On behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA), I am writing to update UMRBA's support for \$187 million for the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) given the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) recently expressed capability estimates submitted to Congress.

We understand that the Corps is estimating the NESP FY 2025 navigation capability at \$65 million and the NESP FY 2025 ecosystem capability at \$125 million.

This is an update to UMRBA's FY 2025 appropriation request letter submitted to you on April 4, 2024 (see enclosure).

Sincerely,

Kirsten Wallace  
Executive Director  
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

cc: House of Representatives Upper Mississippi River Delegation

Encl: UMRBA FY 2025 USACE Appropriations Priorities Letter (April 4, 2024)



April 4, 2024

The Honorable Kay Granger, Chair  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Appropriations Committee  
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The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Granger and Fleischmann, Ranking Members DeLauro and Kaptur:

As Congress develops its Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations priorities for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, I am writing on behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) to respectfully request funding for the following programs and projects:

— **\$50 million for the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)**

In FY 2025, NESP will initiate construction of three project construction contract awards totaling \$35 million, capacity support for nine federal and state agencies as well as UMRBA, monitoring activities (including at L&D 22 fish passage), planning activities for systemic forest stewardship, and planning and design activities for eleven ecosystem restoration projects, including systemic water level management. In addition, the \$50 million appropriation would support foundational programmatic efforts such as developing strategic management plans, ecological restoration and sustainability goals and objectives, and an adaptive management plan.

— **\$55 million for the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Program**

In FY 2025, UMRR will implement 27 habitat projects across five states and three Corps Districts. Of these 27 projects, UMRR will be actively constructing 10 projects and advance planning and design on 16 habitat projects. These projects integrate a broad range of restoration techniques that strive to use or mimic the river's natural processes to enhance and protect important fish and wildlife habitat, restore the river's floodplain structure and function, and counteract the factors degrading the river's ecological health. UMRR will continue its long term resource monitoring and research, providing a much clearer understanding of the complex, dynamic relationships among various ecosystem components and watershed drivers.

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UMRBA is the Governor-established forum for interstate water resource planning and management on the Upper Mississippi River, representing its member states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin and working collaboratively with the federal agencies as well as the navigation industry, environmental organizations, local communities, and others who work directly to improve the Upper Mississippi River System. UMRBA's member states are strongly committed to the principles of sustainability and multi-use as the foundation of the river's management. The programs and projects listed above collectively help to improve the health and resilience of the navigation system and ecosystem as well as the many river communities of the Upper Mississippi River System.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 651-224-2880 or [kwallace@umrba.org](mailto:kwallace@umrba.org) to arrange an opportunity to discuss our request in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "K Walla", followed by a vertical line.

Kirsten Wallace  
Executive Director  
Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

cc: House Upper Mississippi River Delegation