

Milwaukee River Work Group
c/o Ann Brummitt
2514 E Shorewood Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

March 18, 2007

Governor Doyle
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle,

We would like to commend your budget initiative "To Grow Milwaukee for Wisconsin's Future". We agree with you that Wisconsin cannot progress without investing badly needed funds to deal with Milwaukee's environmental, economic, and education issues. Likewise, we would like to thank you for your recommendation of a funding increase for the Stewardship Fund. The stewardship funds have been successfully used to acquire parcels along Milwaukee's rivers and lakefront.

In particular, we are pleased with the plan to leverage federal dollars with 17 million in state bonding funds for the cleanup of Kinnickinnic and Milwaukee River contamination. Cleanup of PCB contaminated sediment is another important step towards the renewal of these important urban waterways. The removal of the North Avenue dam along with efforts to improve the river corridor and water quality have already led the Milwaukee River to make a dramatic comeback. This natural corridor is becoming an important recreational destination and has led to an economic boon in the surrounding neighborhoods.

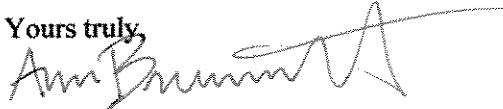
Our group, the Milwaukee River Work Group, is made up of the Urban Ecology Center, Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers, River Revitalization Foundation, Milwaukee County Conservation Coalition, Groundwork Milwaukee, businesses, neighborhood associations, landowners, design professionals, and representatives of the DNR and National Park Service. We are working with the City of Milwaukee's Northeast Side Comprehensive Plan to develop the Milwaukee River corridor as a catalytic project for the community. We would like to see the city permanently protect the river through a site overlay district, bluff to bluff, from the former North Ave Dam up to the City limits at Silver Spring Drive. Much of this area has been designated floodplain and environmental corridor by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

The most contaminated portions of the Milwaukee River, which are a priority to receive these state funds, lie within this proposed overlay district in Lincoln Park and behind the Estabrook Impoundment. In addition to removing contaminated sediment, we believe that in order to protect this still wild and green gem within our city limits we must protect the primary environmental corridor along with a buffer. The overlay zoning will prevent physical and visual intrusions in the corridor while providing design guidelines to encourage sensitive development within the buffer zone. We are proposing a resolution to the Milwaukee Common Council that will allow the City to begin development of this overlay district with input from all stakeholders. We would also like your support in naming the river a *scenic urban waterway* per chapter 30.275 in the state statutes. This state designation would promote and enhance our local efforts to protect this urban river.

We urge you to support our efforts that will allow Milwaukee to showcase this tremendous natural amenity and protect the State's investment in cleaning up this urban scenic river. It now

seems no coincidence that Frederick Law Olmstead chose to create Riverside Park on the banks of the Milwaukee River. We have the opportunity to create Milwaukee's own Central Park connecting neighborhood and suburb alike to our city center and to Lake Michigan. And like Central Park in New York, this land will amount to nearly 800 acres of protected green space.

Yours truly,



Ann Brummitt

The Milwaukee River Work Group

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