

December 11, 2019

Mark Gabriel
IJC Commissioners
U.S. Section
1717 H Street Northwest, Suite 835
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Recommended objectives at the U.S./Canadian border for nitrogen and phosphorus in the
Red River Basin

Dear Commissioners;

We are writing to you to express our support for the International Red River Board's (IRRB) proposal to add nitrogen and phosphorus to the list of objectives that the International Joint Commission (IJC) monitors and reports on at the international boundary in the Red River Basin. Nutrient loading to lakes and flowing waters is a challenge to jurisdictions on both sides of our shared border and mitigating the impacts of nutrient pollution on human health and the environment is a shared priority. These objectives would be beneficial for us as we work within our state and with those jurisdictions we share the basin with to reduce nutrient impacts to our waters.

We appreciate the collaborative approach that the IRRB used to develop the nutrient targets. As you are aware, staff from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have been working with the IRRB and their water quality committee to develop these proposed objectives. By taking this action, the IJC would establish long term goals for the basin. It remains the responsibility of the individual states and the province to develop implementation plans that align with the IJC goals as well as local objectives. While Minnesota will continue to use our state water quality standards to implement our Clean Water Act responsibilities including monitoring and assessment, development of watershed restoration and protection strategies and point source-permitting, the objectives will provide guidance for long term planning and for cooperation between the jurisdictions within the basin.

We appreciate your consideration of recommending the proposed objectives to the respective governments.

Sincerely,



Laura Bishop
Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

LB:gd

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cc: Mike Renouf, IRRB Co-Chair, Canadian Section (e-copy)
Col. Karl Jansen, IRRB Co-Chair, US Section (e-copy)
Nicole Armstrong, IRRB WQC Co-Chair (e-copy)
Dave Glatt, Director, ND DEQ (e-copy)
Jim Ziegler, IRRB WQC Co-Chair (e-copy)
Robert Phillips, IJC Advisor, Canadian Section (e-copy)