



October 3, 2024

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Dakota Waters Resources Act Amendments of 2024

Dear Chairman Manchin & Ranking Member Barrasso,

The Coalition to Protect the Missouri River (CPMR) is a diverse organization that represents those that live and work on and adjacent to the Missouri River. Our membership includes Missouri River ports, navigation interests, water supply, energy producers, agriculture groups and more.

We write to oppose Dakota Water Resources Act Amendments of 2024 that would authorize funds for projects that would allow water to be transferred out of the Missouri River basin. Specifically, we oppose the \$454,000,000 to complete the McClusky Canal and the Missouri River North Alternative for the Eastern North Dakota Alternate Water Supply Project, and any other related efforts.

The Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System serves eight authorized purposes within the Missouri River basin. When established, the original and primary purposes were flood control and navigation. Today those purposes also include irrigation, water supply, water quality, recreation, hydropower and fish & wildlife.

CPMR believes all states within the Missouri River basin have the right to use Missouri River water for the authorized purposes within the Missouri River basin as regulated by the Missouri River Master Manual. This does not mean states have the right to remove water from the basin, therefore threatening other stakeholders right to said water. Authorizing funding for projects to remove water from the basin sets a dangerous precedent.

There continues to be a false assumption that the Missouri River basin is water abundant. Three years of reduced navigation flows and reduced winter flows to the Lower Missouri River due to drought demonstrate the need to carefully manage the system for stakeholders within the basin.

The reduced navigation support flows have a national and regional economic impact due to transportation costs as well as threaten critical drinking water supplies and energy production. Missouri River water should remain in the Missouri River Basin and we request that the committee not take action on any legislation that would allow water to be transferred outside of the basin.

Sincerely,

Chris DeMoss

Board Chair
Coalition to Protect the Missouri River

CPMR Membership

AgriServices of Brunswick
Ameren
American Waterways Operators
Blair Ag
Bloomsdale Excavating
Capital Sand Company
Central Missouri AgriServices
Central Plains Cement
Evergy
FCS Financial
Gateway Dredging
Hermann Sand and Gravel
Holliday Sand & Gravel
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Farm Bureau
Iowa Soybean Association
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Soybean Association
MFA Inc.
Michels Construction
Midwest Construction
Missouri Agribusiness Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Farm Bureau
Missouri Limestone Producers Association
Missouri Soybean Association
National Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Soybean Association
NEW Cooperative Inc.
Port KC – Kansas City, Missouri
Ray County Stone
WaterOne