



Records related to the establishment
of the Minnesota Valley National
Wildlife Refuge

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STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BOX , CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING • ST. PAUL MINNESOTA • 55155

DN - INFORMATION
612-296-6157

FILE NO _____

January 7, 1983

*send to EM
3/1/84*

Mr. William Kirchner
Richfield Bank & Trust Co.
6625 Lyndale Ave. So.
Richfield, MN 55423

Dear Mr. Kirchner:

Don Davison, Director of State Parks passed on your letter of December 20, 1982 to Mr. Samuel H. Morgan, regarding the fen near Savage, for my information. If I may I would like to provide you with some background information (see attached), and a status report on this fen, commonly referred to as Savage Fen.

Savage Fen is a 108 acre site encompassing a calcareous fen plant community located in the Savage Industrial Park. Calcareous fens are areas saturated with cold water, high in calcium carbonates, which upwells from underground water sources. The fen community is ranked as endangered in Minnesota because of its rarity and the many rare plant species which inhabit this community. Savage Fen is the largest known fen in Minnesota and one of the largest in the Midwest. Savage Fen supports at least six rare plant elements of state significance. The area was first recommended for protection in 1926 by Dr. Rosendahl in the Naturalist Guide to the Americas. Unfortunately the area was forgotten about until 1980.

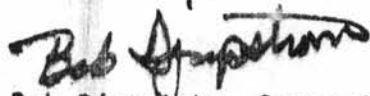
The Department of Natural Resources Scientific and Natural Areas Program has attempted since 1981 to protect the Savage Fen site. In this regard the Scientific and Natural Areas Program has received the support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Savage, Wisconsin Society of Biological Scientists, the Commissioners Advisory Committee on Scientific and Natural Areas and others. The land, because of its location, has been appraised at over \$500,000. However, the principal landowner, Mr. Raymond Formanek rejected the SNA Programs offer for the certified appraised value requesting a sum almost four times as high. Unfortunately the State can not meet this price which is clearly unwarranted. I have discussed the matter further with Mr. Formanek a number of times but have not gotten any further. The Nature Conservancy staff and Mr. Wallace Dayton, Board Member, have also met with Mr. Formanek but to no avail. Mr. Formanek tends to be quite difficult to deal with. However, because Savage Fen is the highest protection priority in the State for the SNA

Letter to Mr. Wm. Kirchner
January 7, 1983
Page 2

Program I intend to maintain contact with Mr. Formanek.

I appreciate your interest in the project and would welcome any assistance on your part should you be interested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Djupstrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Bob Djupstrom, Supervisor
Scientific and Natural Areas Program

BD:t

Attach.

cc: Don Davison

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
PROJECT EVALUATION

OF PROJECT: Savage Fen COUNTY: Scott
SCAPE REGION: Mississippi River Sand Plains DNR QUAD CODE: S16d
AL DESCRIPTION: Part of Sec 16 and 17, T115N, R21W
ENT STATUS: Recommended SNA 11/5/80 APPROX. ACREAGE: 118
ERSHIP PARCEL: Private (2 owners)

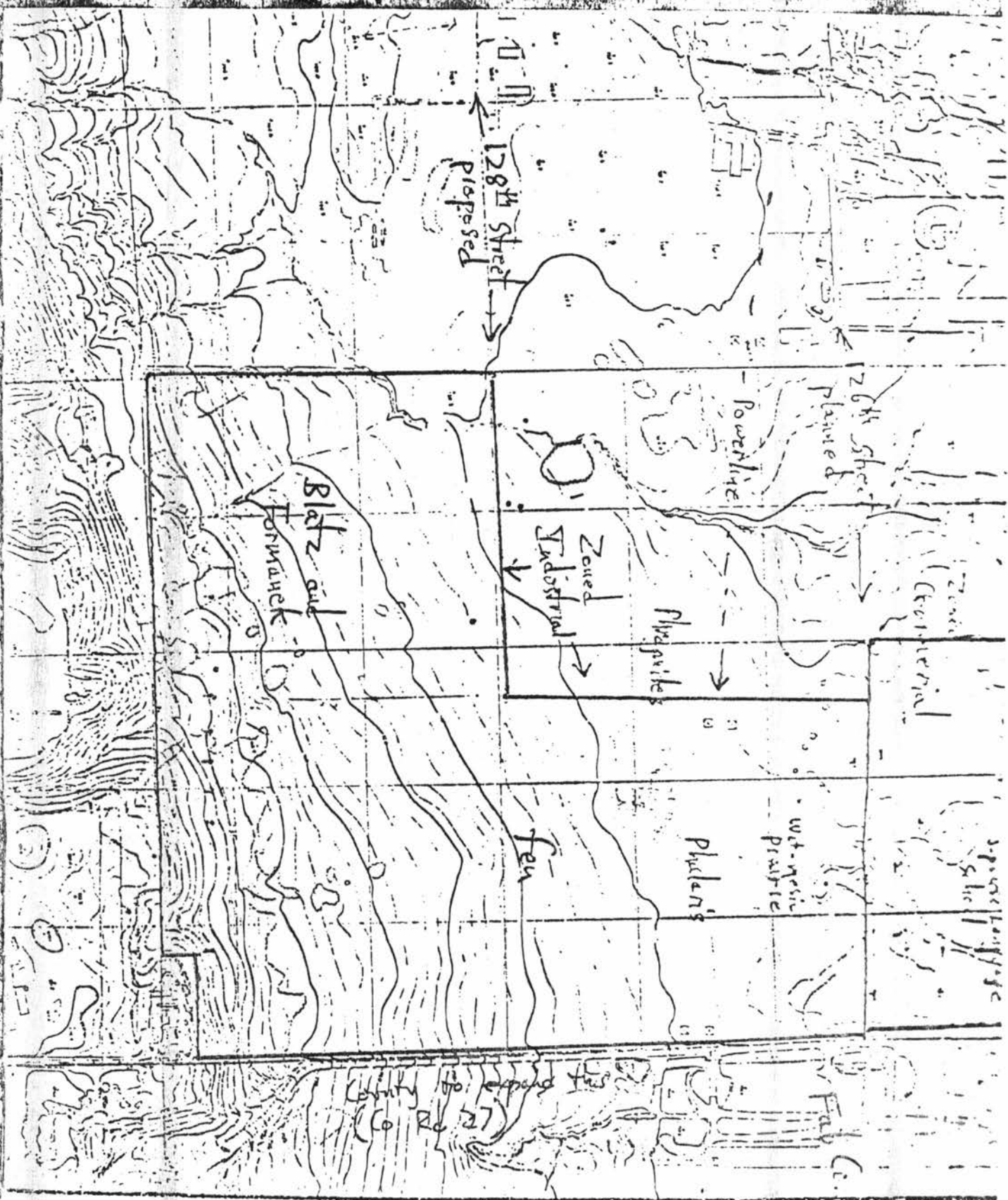
LOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT AREA

The calcareous fen plant community (a sloping alkaline bog) that occurs about 1 1/2 miles southwest of Savage was rediscovered this summer after over 30 years of being overlooked. The fen is saturated by water which is very high in calcium carbonates that seeps out from the base of the 100-foot high bluffs of the Minnesota River valley. The composition of the flora that occurs on the peat, saturated by this calcareous water, is very distinctive.

Because this type of habitat is so rare, the site supports a number of uncommon plant species including 6 rare plant Elements. Tofieldia glutinosa (sticky false asphodel) was rediscovered here in 1980, recorded in southern Minnesota (south of Mahanomen County) for the first time since the early 1890's. Cladium mariscoides (twig-rush) was also rediscovered in this fen after over 50 years. This is the only site of this rare species in southern Minnesota. In addition, four other rare plant Elements have been documented to occur here: 2 in 1980, 1 in 1948 and 1 in 1924.

The rediscovery of this site in June of this year triggered an intensive search for all occurrences of this type of plant community in Minnesota. Although the Heritage Program visited seven other fens or fen-like plant communities in 1980, none of the other sites compare favorably in terms of size or lack of disturbance. Due to the dependence of calcareous fens on very localized water chemistry and hydrologic conditions (specifically, the seepage of calcium carbonate-rich water), the number of possible locations for these plant communities is very limited. It is highly unlikely that a comparable calcareous fen will ever be discovered in the future.

This natural area was first recommended for preservation by Dr. Rosendahl in the Naturalist's Guide to the Americas published in 1926. The fen is located in a region of Savage which is rapidly being developed for industrial purposes. Preliminary contact with the landowners indicated a willingness to negotiate possible sale or land exchange but the distinct possibility of siting an industrial park on this site was also raised. Calcareous fens are ecologically significant on a regional basis as well as being one of Minnesota's most endangered plant communities.



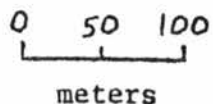


Map of Savage Fen area. Adapted from Harms (1959) and FEMA, FIA (1979), on base map by Harry S. Johnson Companies, Inc. (1974). Contour interval is 2 feet (.61 meters).

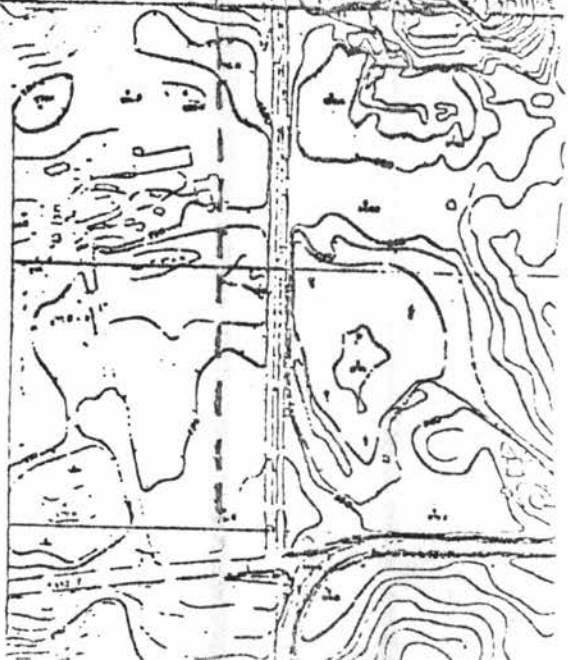


Scale

1:4880



-  100-year flood boundary
-  Peat, more than .9 meters deep
-  Principal area of fen vegetation
-  Line of cross-section





2'30" PRIOR LAKE 8 MI 472 2 1/2 MILES 473 20' 474 (PR)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS



STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BOX CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING • ST. PAUL MINNESOTA • 55155

DNR INFORMATION
512 296-6157

Key
F-YI EM

any idios on
preservation
would be
appraised
4/22/84

4/84

FILE NO _____

Peter Buessler
DNR Scientific, Natural Area
297-3288

or
Joey Barnard - Nat. Cons.

January 7, 1983

Mr. William Kirchner
Richfield Bank & Trust Co.
6625 Lyndale Ave. So.
Richfield, MN 55423

talked to Peter B. - Jerome Blatz has been
quite cooperative and they've had a
~~good~~ good relationship with him. Formanek
is most opposed and concerned about dealing
on price

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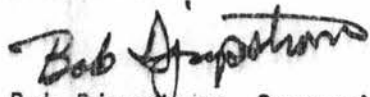
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Bob Djupstrom, Supervisor
Scientific and Natural Areas Program

BD:t

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PROJECT EVALUATION

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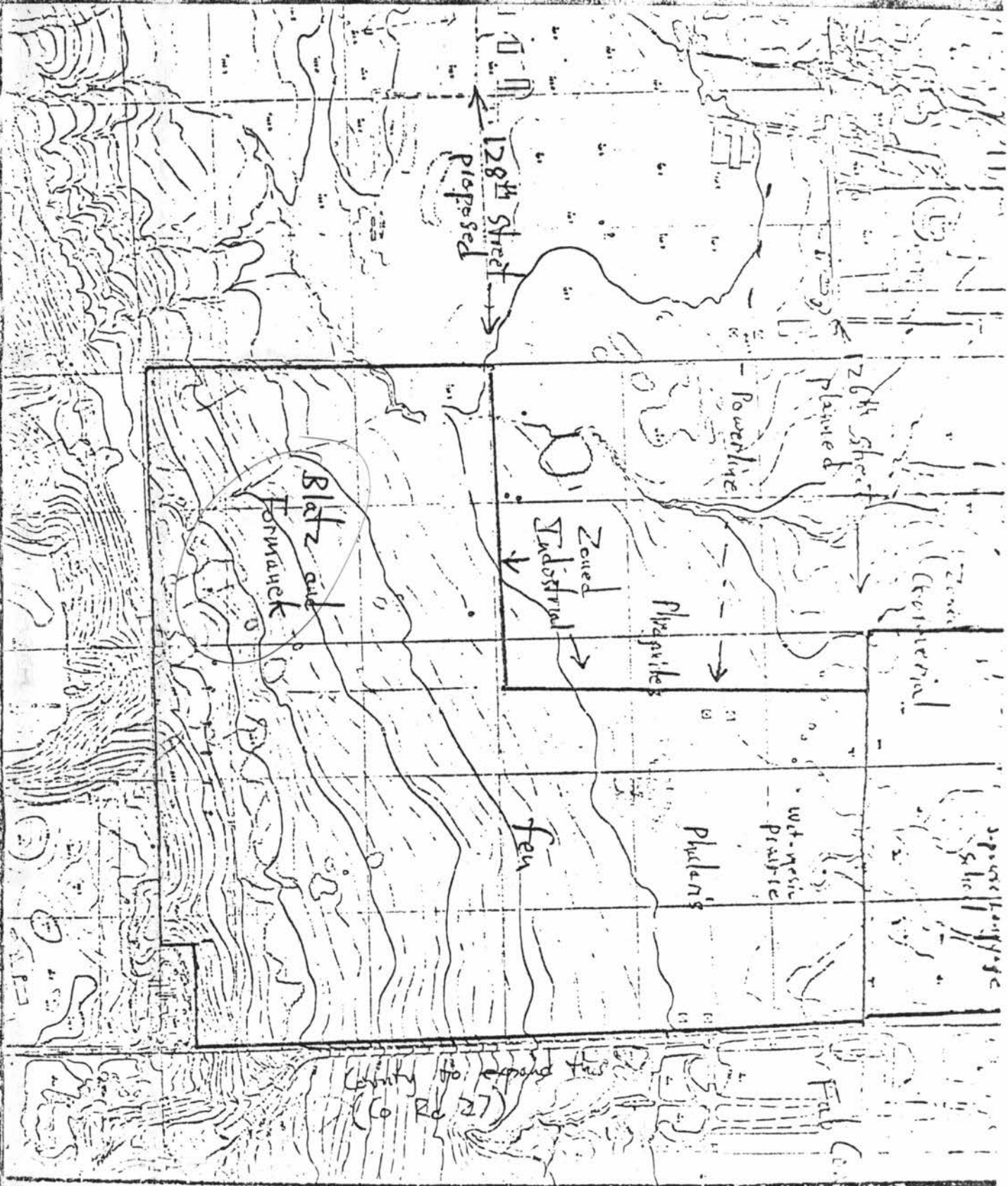
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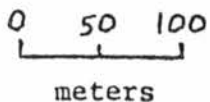


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Scale

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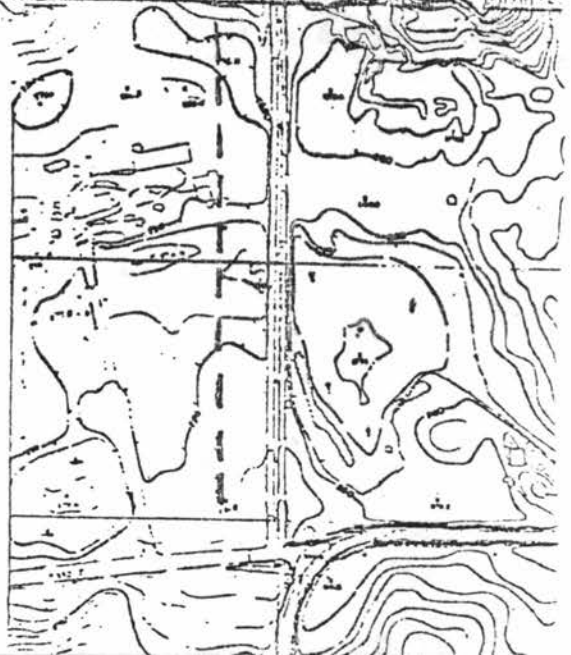
meters

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 Peat, more than .9 meters deep

 Principal area of fen vegetation

 Line of cross-section



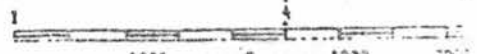


22°30' 127°00' 127°05' 20' 127°10'

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

*



BILL FRENZEL
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1026 LONGWORTH BUILDING
202-225-2871

MINNESOTA OFFICE:
MAYBETH CHRISTENSEN
ROOM 345
8120 PENN AVENUE SOUTH
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA 55431
612-881-4600

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 24, 1983

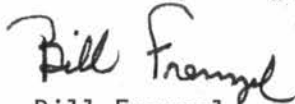
Mr. Ed Martin and
Mr. John Tietz
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Messrs. Martin and Tietz:

I am pleased to accept your offer to be an honorary board member of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

I will most likely be unable to attend many of your meetings, but look forward to working on the needed legislation for the Refuge.

Yours very truly,



Bill Frenzel
Member of Congress

BF:mc

Friends of the

**Minnesota
Valley**



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

March 9, 1983

Merrill L. Blaskey, Chairman
Contributions Review Committee
Northern States Power Co.
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Dear Mr. Blaskey:

We are most grateful for your recent \$500.00 gift. We are in the process of launching the Minnesota Valley Heritage Registry Program, which includes publication of a brochure describing the program to Minnesota river valley landowners. This project is a key element in achieving our organizational goals, and a portion of your gift will be used to cover the cost of publishing the brochure describing the project.

Thank you again for your generous support!

Sincerely,

Kay L. Schwie
Board of Directors

c.c. Don Chmiel
NSP Environmental
Regulatory Dept.

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittees:

Housing & Urban Development
and Independent Agencies
Transportation



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

405 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

Kay Schwie

March 18, 1983

RECEIVED

MAR 25 1983

EDWARD M. BRIGHAM III

Edward M. Brigham, III
Regional Vice President
National Audubon Society
North Midwest Regional Office
Suite 920, Lumber Exchange Building
10 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Dear Mr. Brigham:

Thank you for the copy of your letter to Congressman Breaux urging his assistance in matters related to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

I share your interest in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and I will do what I can to secure funding for its proper upkeep. You can count on my support.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/ebc

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

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Martin O. Sabo

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/ebc



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

March 24, 1983

The Honorable Dave Durenberger
U.S. Senator
353 Russell Senate Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Harriet
attachments
are with
Bosendo*

Dear Senator:

We understand that the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution will be meeting in April to consider amendments to existing Acts which authorized wildlife refuges like our own Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. We further understand that you are a member of these committees.

As you know the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (PL 94-466) was passed in 1976, but it now needs updating to reflect escalating costs of land yet to be purchased, the change in boundaries and the need to reimburse the cities and counties that have land within the project. These changes have been recommended in the approved master plan which was well supported during the public involvement meetings and later expressed in letters and resolutions from individuals and committees.

Enclosed is a copy of draft legislation which we wish you would ask the subcommittee on wildlife to consider. It does not appropriate any additional funds at this time. Also included are letters from the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, the Minneapolis Chapter Izaak Walton League, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, the City of Savage, and the City of Bloomington supporting the project.

In addition to this needed government action our group is looking toward ways of creating new public-private partnerships to help complete the refuge so that it will not be solely a federal responsibility. As these develop we will be keeping you informed of our progress.

The refuge is still as an exciting project as it was when it was begun in the early 1970's and it is now half completed. We hope that you will assist us in it's completion.

Sincerely,

Ed Martin, Chairman
Friends of the Minnesota Valley

March 25, 1983

The Honorable Robert T. Stafford
U.S. Senator
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Friends of the

**Minnesota
Valley**



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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March 25, 1983

Friends of the

**Minnesota
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Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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U.S. Senator
523 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Bloomington, MN
55420

March 24, 1983

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U.S. Senator
2317 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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AMENDMENT TO
P.L. 94-466

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (Public Law 94-466), authorizing the establishment of a national wildlife refuge in the Minnesota River Valley, is amended by amending and adding the following sections:

Amending Sec. 4(a)(1) to read -

"Approximately 12,400 acres of lands, marshes, submerged lands, and open waters in the lower Minnesota River Valley, which are depicted as a wildlife refuge on a map dated June 1982 and entitled "Official Map - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area", which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior;" and

Adjusts refuge boundaries to include Wilkie Park and other special areas identified in Master Plan as needing protection.

Amending Sec. 4(b)(1) to read -

"The Secretary shall acquire lands, waters, and interests therein, including public lands owned by the State of Minnesota and its political subdivisions, within the boundaries of the refuge by (A) donation; (B) purchase or lease (with donated, transferred, or appropriated funds); or (C) exchange."

Authorizes Secretary of the Interior to purchase city or county-owned lands.

Amending Sec. 6(a) to read -

"General - The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the State and political subdivisions thereof, develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the conservation, protection, preservation and interpretation of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the adjacent wildlife recreation area."

Deletes 3-year requirement for Master Plan and instructs Secretary of the Interior to implement plan.

Amending Sec. 7(a) -

"Grants - The Secretary shall provide sufficient financial assistance to the State and its political subdivisions to enable it to acquire and develop lands, waters and interests therein in the wildlife recreation area. The Secretary may reimburse the State and its political subdivisions for lands, waters and interests therein contained within the wildlife refuge at the time of its establishment. Such grants shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Secretary."

Gives the Secretary of the Interior authority to assist State and cities in acquisition of land on recreation area and reimburse them for refuge lands.

Amending Sec. 10(a) -

"Acquisition - There are authorized to be appropriated such amounts as may be necessary for acquisition of lands, waters, and interests therein in the refuge-recreation area, pursuant to Sections 4(b)(1) and (7)(a) of this Act, except that such sums shall not exceed a total of \$29,500,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1977 extending indefinitely until the monies available are expended."

Increases spending authority to keep up with inflation and deletes time deadline.

Amending Sec. 10(b) -

"Development - There are authorized to be appropriated such amounts as may be necessary for the development of the refuge-recreation area, except that such sums shall not exceed \$9,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1977, extending indefinitely until the monies available are expended."

Increases
spending authority
to keep up with
inflation.

Adding to Sec. 10(c) -

"In furtherance of the purposes of Section 4(c) of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept unrestricted or conditional gifts, devises, bequests or loans of money, real or personal property, or proceeds therefrom, or interests therein, for the benefit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition or servitude which may include the obligation to repay loans or conditional gifts of money, or to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for a term not to exceed twenty (20) years, for a visitor center and related facilities, or any other covenant, condition or servitude, deemed by the Secretary to be in accordance with law and compatible with the purpose for which acceptance is sought, subject to appropriation by Congress."

Allows
Secretary of the
Interior to accept
gifts with reser-
vations and allows
for lease-purchase
of visitor center.

"Any gifts or bequests of money, and proceeds from the sales of other property received as gifts or bequests pursuant to this subsection, shall be disbursed upon order of the Secretary for the benefit of programs administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service."

"For the purpose of Federal income, estate, and gift taxes, money, property, or proceeds therefrom, or interests therein, accepted under this subsection shall be considered as a gift or bequest or conditional gift or bequest to the United States."



STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BOX , CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA • 55155

DNR INFORMATION
(612) 296-6157

FILE NO. _____

March 8, 1983

The Honorable John BreauX, Chairman
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation, and the Environment
Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries
U.S. House of Representatives.
Washington D. C. 20515

Dear Representative BreauX:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been working closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in planning and developing the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area, and State Trail and is interested in seeing the refuge realized to its fullest potential.

We understand that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation, and the Environment is reviewing legislation to amend the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (PL 94-466). The Minnesota DNR would like to indicate its support for the proposed amendments to this act. In particular, the DNR supports the following amendments:

1. To adjust the boundaries of the Refuge and Wildlife Recreation Area to be consistent with the lands identified in the comprehensive plan and to instruct the Secretary of the Interior to implement and adhere to the policies and programs detailed in the comprehensive plans.
2. To increase the spending authority for acquisition and development to keep up with inflation and to delete the deadlines for acquisition and development of the Refuge.
3. To authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to assist the state and local units of government with the acquisition and development of the Wildlife Recreation area. However, to assure that the acquisition and development of the Wildlife Recreation Area proceeds along with the acquisition and development of the Wildlife Refuge, the Minnesota DNR proposes that one-third of any federal appropriations made for the implementation of this Act be reserved for the grants contemplated by Sec. 7 (a).

These amendments to the Minnesota Valley Act identify timely changes in the legislation which would enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Minnesota DNR and the local units of government to fulfill their roles in implementing the comprehensive plan and managing the resources of the lower Minnesota River valley.

Yours Truly,


Joseph N. Alexander
Commissioner

cc: The Honorable James L. Oberstar
The Honorable Bill Frenzel
The Honorable Martin O. Sabo
The Honorable Dave Durenberger
The Honorable Rudy Boschwitz

:cjm
1381E



Home of Dan Patch

CITY of SAVAGE

12305 QUENTIN AVE. SO.
SAVAGE, MINNESOTA 55378

CITY HALL 612 890-1045

March 3, 1983

U. S. Rep. William Frenzel
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Frenzel:

We have received your letter of January 13, 1983 expressing your support for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and your efforts to secure funding for the project.

Since you asked to be kept abreast of this issue, we are advising you that the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and Environment will meet on March 9 to discuss amendments to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (PL94-466).

This seems like an appropriate time to support what changes are needed to accommodate the inclusion of the Rice Lake wayside and Wilkie Park in the project, and the establishment of the refuge headquarters facility and recreational development, including trails and boat ramp, in Savage.

To do this, we believe an amendment is necessary to provide for increased acquisition authority in terms of time, additional appropriation authority, and adjustment of the size of the national wildlife refuge within the old boundaries as recommended by the state-federal master plan.

We would like to see an appropriation at this time for construction of such facilities as the refuge headquarter complex.

Sincerely,

Henry Sinda
City Administrator

cc: Honorable John Breau
Subcommittee Chairman
U. S. Rep. James Oberstar
Subcommittee member
Ron Erickson
Savage Park Board

RESOLUTION NO. R-82-117

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ADMINISTRATIVE-INTERPRETIVE HEADQUARTERS IN
SAVAGE NEAR RICE LAKE

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources intends to establish a state trail system connecting lands within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed trail will connect the Louisville wetlands, at the south, to Fort Snelling, at the north, along and adjacent to the Minnesota River; and

WHEREAS, said trail system will include the establishment of an administrative-interpretive headquarters, and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge recommends that the facility be located at the mid-point in the trail system; and

WHEREAS, one of the proposed sites is Rice Lake, at the border between the communities of Savage and Shakopee; and

WHEREAS, the Savage Park Board supports the establishment of said facility at Rice Lake.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Savage strongly support the establishment of an administrative-interpretive headquarters in Savage near Rice Lake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congressional representatives be requested to seek funding for said facility.

Adopted by the Mayor and Council of the City of Savage, Scott County, Minnesota, this 14th day of October, 1982.

ATTEST:

Henry Sinda
City Administrator

Duane F. Gutoske
~~Red Hopp~~, Mayor
ACTING

Motion by Mackie

Second by Scheller

Hopp	absent	Scheller	aye
Mackie	aye	Gutoske	aye
Remer	aye		

/////////
/////////
/////////

16096 Creekwood Road
Prior Lake, MN 55372
February 26, 1983

Since I am well aware of your continued strong support of the National Wildlife Refuge program, I am confident that the reauthorization of acquisition authority and the necessary increase in funding level for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I trust that you will be successful in convincing other members of your Committee and

Dear Mr. Oberstar:

We understand that the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment is scheduled to meet on March 9, 1983, to consider, among other things, the reauthorization of several National Wildlife Refuges, including the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge here in Minnesota.

As you are no doubt aware, acquisition authority for the Minnesota Valley Refuge terminates in October 1983 and the Fish and Wildlife Service is nearing the end of its funding authority for this project. We urge your help, as a member of the Subcommittee, in supporting an extension of the acquisition period and an increase in the funding level.

Preferably, the extension of acquisition authority should not have an established deadline because of the uncertain funding situation. The funding level should be increased from the existing \$8.3 million to \$23.3 million for the federal portion of this project. The state contribution is \$6.2 million, making a total of \$29.5 million needed for the entire state-federal project, including the Master Plan additions.

Perhaps at this time the Committee should also consider certain other necessary changes, such as provision for the counties and cities to be reimbursed for their lands within the Refuge. They are understandably reluctant to turn over any lands unless they are compensated for the investments they have in these lands. Approval is also needed for boundary adjustments, as recommended by the approved Master Plan, which would increase the size of the Refuge from 9,500 acres to about 12,500 acres. Most of this additional acreage involves the transfer of county and state lands to the Refuge--lands which were not contemplated in the original legislation.

The MINNESOTA Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be a tremendous asset to the State of Minnesota and particularly to the Twin City metropolitan area. The Refuge, when completed, will be an outstanding example of a wildlife refuge, with wildlife-oriented outdoor recreation and education as important components--all within an urban environment.

National Audubon Society

NORTH MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
SUITE 920, LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING
10 SOUTH FIFTH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401 (612) 375-9140



February 28, 1983

Honorable John Breaux, Chairman
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation
and the Environment
Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Breaux:

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of the newer federal refuges having been established in 1976. It is a place where the urban and the wild environments merge - it is an ecotone. As with most ecotones where two communities meet, there are great diversity, excitement and challenges here.

Scores of jet airplanes roar in and out of nearby Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport - and some 250 species of birds (including whistling swans, white pelicans and bald eagles) may be found at the refuge.

Northern States Power Company's Black Dog power plant is in the midst of the refuge and the company leases 1,400 acres to the Fish and Wildlife Service as a limited use sanctuary.

Environmental awareness and education as well as habitat enhancement and wildlife conservation occur at this refuge. People in the area have positive feelings and great pride in this new refuge. Indeed, it has been adopted by our Minnesota River Valley Audubon chapter under National Audubon's Adopt-A-Refuge program.

At this point, the Refuge needs your help - specifically in the following areas:

- 1) Acquisition Authority - this expires in October, 1983. The authority should be extended until funds are used up and acquisition is completed.
- 2) Additional Appropriation - There is a crying need for an additional appropriation of \$12.5 million to acquire some 2,800 acres of private land and 450 acres of city and county land. This is extremely important to facilitate proper refuge management. All landowners are willing sellers. It is imperative to continue and complete the acquisition. The Administration rescinded \$1.6 million last year. It has not been restored.

Iowa • Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota • Wisconsin

AMERICANS COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION

- 3) Expansion of Authorized Refuge Size - At present the authorized size is 9,500 acres. This should be expanded by 3,000 acres - to 12,500 acres and should include the Wilke Park now owned by Hennepin County.
- 4) Visitor Center - Because this refuge is so close to a major population center, there is more need than at many refuges for a visitor center in order to carry out interpretive programs so essential to understanding and appreciation without which wise human use is impossible.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the National Audubon Society, and especially its chapters and members in the Twin Cities area, I urge your Committee's considerations of these needs of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Please enter this letter as part of the Subcommittee hearing record for the hearing scheduled for March 9, 1983 at 2:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Ed Brigham (jf)

Edward M. Brigham, III
Regional Vice President

EMB/jf

cc: Congressman Martin Sabo
Congressman William Frenzel
Senator David Durenberger
Senator Rudy Boshwitz
Robert Lonning, President, Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club
Carol Kuehnel, President, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
Bill McCormick, President, St. Paul Audubon Society
Kay Schwie, President, Friends of the Minnesota Valley

DEER-RUN FARM
8301 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA 55438

FREDERICK W. RAHR
OWNER

March 3, 1983

The Honorable James Oberstar
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Oberstar

We understand that your subcommittee on wildlife will be meeting on March 9 to consider reauthorization of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (PL94-466). We urge you to extend the time deadline for the acquisition of lands in the refuge and to increase the funding level authority to cover the escalating land prices.

We also suggest that you amend the legislation to provide the inclusion of the James Wilke Regional Park in the wildlife refuge as recommended by the state and federal master plan.

Both Hennepin County and the City of Bloomington would like to turn over their flood plain park lands to the wildlife refuge but desire compensation for their existing investment. This too needs to be considered in the amendment to the act.

The Minneapolis Chapter of the Izaak Walton League fully supports the wildlife refuge and urges that it be completed. We ask that you assist us in this endeavor.

Best personal regards,

Sincerely ,

Frederick W. Rahr

Frederick W. Rahr
Vice President
Minneapolis Chapter Izaak Walton League
6601 Auto Club Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55438

cc: The Honorable Bill Frenzel, House of Representatives
The Honorable Martin Sabo, House of Representatives

BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 4, 1983

Honorable John Breaux, Chairman
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation & the Environment
Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Breaux:

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, started in 1976, has the potential of becoming a major economic asset to our city of Bloomington, Minnesota, plus the entire Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area. The proposed 2,641 acre Long Meadow Lake Unit of the refuge lies entirely within the city and includes the present refuge office where a major visitor center is planned, plus the historic Izaak Walton League Bass Ponds, which are being used as an environmental learning area. It is believed that because of its strategic location near the International Airport, the Inter-State Highway System and other proposed developments in the City of Bloomington, the refuge could be a major tourist attraction bringing considerable new dollars to our hotel-entertainment industry.

Currently, the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce are promoting the development of the Airport South District that includes the former metropolitan stadium property. The wildlife refuge is part of this district and it provides a balance to the commercial development of the area with its abundance of natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunity.

It is for these reasons that we wish to see the refuge completed and the master plan implemented. Therefore, we are asking that you support increasing the spending authority and the acquisition time frame of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (P.L. 94-466). We are also asking that consideration be given to finding a way to reimburse the City for their lands that are to become part of the wildlife refuge. Of equal importance is the construction of the visitor center and if something can be done to hasten its construction, we would appreciate it.



Please make our concerns a matter of record at the subcommittee meeting on March 9, 1983.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Groen

Donald L. Groen, CCE
President and Chief Operating Officer

DLG:kle

cc: Honorable William Frenzel
Honorable Martin Sabo
Honorable James Oberstar



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD AT PENN • BLOOMINGTON, MINN. 55431

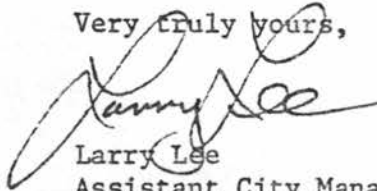
March 14, 1983

Ms. Shirley Hunt
Senator Dave Durenberger's Office
550 E. Butler Square
100 - 6th Street North
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Dear Ms. Hunt:

I have attached a copy of my memorandum describing why the City of Bloomington supports acquisition and development of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I have also attached a memorandum from Russ Langseth, the City Engineer, describing additional costs the City has incurred in order to accommodate the Refuge.

Very truly yours,



Larry Lee
Assistant City Manager

cc: ✓ Ed Crozier

DATE: February 28, 1983

TO: John G. Pidgeon, City Manager

FROM: Larry Lee, Ass't. City Manager

SUBJECT: Federal Legislation for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

When Councilmen Herbst, Mahon and Spies attend the National League of Cities Conference, they should mention to Minnesota's legislative delegation a number of initiatives involving Federal funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge which would have substantial positive impacts for the City of Bloomington.

The emerging "Public Works and Jobs" bill is essentially a vehicle for advancing the timing of a number of Federal capital expenditures to provide jobs and stimulate the economy. This advanced programming should include \$500,000 to complete design and \$6 million to construct the refuge headquarters and visitors center east of 34th Avenue in Bloomington. I understand that Ellerbe Architects are on the verge of laying off a large number of professionals and that receiving funding for this project would help avert some of these lay-offs.

The House Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment Subcommittee of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee will soon be hearing a bill to reauthorize acquisition acts for a number of wildlife refuges. The Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge will be among those included in the bill. In addition to reauthorizing the acquisition act, additional legislation should be introduced which would:

1. Increase the funding authorization for the Minnesota Valley Refuge and appropriate \$12 million to complete land acquisition;
2. Amend Section 4(b)(1) of P.L. 94-466 to authorize the Refuge to purchase 400 acres of City lands in the Long Meadow Lake Unit and appropriate \$800,000 for this purpose (attached map shows location of this City-owned land);
3. Realign Refuge and Recreation Area boundaries consistent with the approved Refuge Master Plan.

I have attached a draft of amendments to P.L. 94-466 which includes the items listed above. The Chairman of the Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment Subcommittee is John B. Breaux (D-Louisiana). James Oberstar is a member of this subcommittee.

Our Councilmen might want to note that this Wildlife Refuge is about the only one where acquisition and development will serve to stimulate job creation. When the Long Meadow Lake unit is operational and the visitors center is constructed, it will provide a powerful incentive for commercial development of the Airport South District.

In addition, the Councilmen should point out that the City wants to sell its landholdings within the Long Meadow Lake unit so that a fund can be established for management of Bloomington's portion of the National Wildlife Recreation area between I-35W and the MN&S Railroad.

r
Encs.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 23, 1983

Ms. Elaine Mellott
HQNO3S
Control Data Corporation
9400 34th Ave. S.
Bloomington, Minnesota 55440

Dear Elaine:

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Monday, March 28th for dinner at the Nicollet Island Inn.

I want to take this opportunity to discuss the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the Environment and Public Works Committee-- in particular the Toxic Substances and Environment Oversight Subcommittee which I chair and the Environmental Pollution and Water Resources Subcommittee on which I serve as a member. I'd like to hear what issues concern you as well.

The evening should provide a chance for a good discussion but more important the time to renew our relationship, which is important to me.

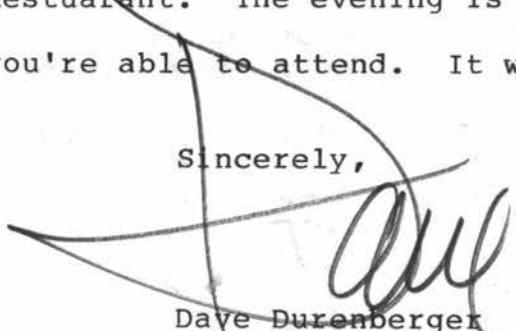
The details of the evening are as follows:

~~7:30~~ - 8:00 PM Socializing in the Captain John Tapper Pub of Nicollet Island Inn, 95 Merriam Nicollet Island, Downtown Minneapolis
Tel No: 623-7742

8:00 - 10:00 PM Dinner on the North Porch of the River Room Restaurant. The evening is Dutch Treat.

I'm pleased you're able to attend. It will be good to see you.

Sincerely,



Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD/skh

Neil Johnson
att. Edna

Hei

Dayton

B.ine
W.ange
F.ive

B.own
W.ood

1.02
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Neil Johnson

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R.othin

D.ill
G.und - 704
att.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ER 83/161

MAR 23 1983

Mr. William R. Lake
Division Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Metro Square Building, Suite 490
7th and Robert Streets
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Mr. Lake:

This responds to a request for the Department of the Interior's comments on the Draft Environmental/Section 4(f) Statement for CSAH-18 (from I-494 to TH-13 and 101), Hennepin and Scott Counties, Minnesota.

GENERAL COMMENTS

We commend you and the project sponsors for the high quality of the draft environmental statement and for the extensive coordination that has been undertaken for this project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of this Department has been actively involved in project planning efforts for several years and, as a consequence of this coordination, the draft statement adequately describes potential impacts to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area (MVNWRRA) and to other resources of concern to us.

SECTION 4(f) STATEMENT COMMENTS

We concur that there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the use of some Section 4(f) land should the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) determine that a build alternative is necessary to meet local and regional transportation objectives. With regard to specific build alternatives, we strongly recommend selection of Alternative 6 (East Corridor Arterial) since it would have the least adverse effect on Section 4(f) lands. We are aware of the potential traffic-related impacts that Alternative 6 may induce along Normandale Boulevard, and are not unsympathetic to the concerns of the City of Bloomington regarding such impacts. Nevertheless, we wish to emphasize the special nature of the lands in the MVNWRRA, as well as the growing importance of such lands to present and future residents as the surrounding area experiences increased development.

Should the FHWA be able to make a finding that such impacts constitute community disruption of extraordinary magnitude (in the context of similar transportation projects in urbanized areas), and that such impacts could not be adequately mitigated or reduced by the application of innovative highway design or traffic management techniques, we would be willing to reconsider our recommendation. Based on the severity of impacts, we urge that consideration of alternatives other than Alternative 6 be confined to

Alternative 5 (West Corridor Arterial) and Alternative 3 (Central Corridor Arterial). Alternatives 7 and 9 (the freeway alternatives) and Alternative 14 (the dual bridge alternative) do not appear to have sufficient transportation benefits to justify their severe impacts to natural and community resources. Should the FHWA reject Alternative 6 as a feasible and prudent alternative, we request that additional coordination be undertaken with the FWS and other affected agency and community interests before selecting another alternative.

With regard to Alternative 6 and measures to minimize harm, we concur with the general measures listed on pages 208-211, 216-217, 221, and 222-223. However, site-specific measures should be developed in cooperation with the FWS, local park and recreation officials, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and other appropriate agencies/officials, for inclusion in the final statement along with commitments for funding such measures at project expense.

With regard to other alternatives and measures to minimize harm, we recommend additional coordination with appropriate agencies/officials. Although we concur with the general measures listed above, the increased impacts of alternatives other than Alternative 6 require the development of especially sensitive mitigation measures to assure the compatibility of the project with the Section 4(f) lands traversed.

SECTION 6(f) COMMENTS

The requirements of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act are recognized on page 215, but the land replacements that would be accomplished are not specified. It is indicated on page 207 that "... replacement and/or payment schemes would be analyzed in further detail" only when a preferred alternative is chosen. We are unable to evaluate the proposed FHWA compliance with Section 6(f) until specific data on such compliance is furnished.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assistance has been provided to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for facility development at the Rice Lake Wayside Park under Project No. 27-00717. Figure 27 should be revised to indicate that this recreation area would be one of the "6(f) properties" possibly impacted by the transportation project. We note that it is stated in item 8 on page 211 under Measures to Minimize Harm, that "incorporation of a recreational trail crossing the Minnesota River into any build alternative" is a possible mitigation measure. As LWCF monies have been utilized for the acquisition of land and the development of facilities for the Minnesota Valley Trail, we recommend this measure should the highway be built.

Concerning the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve/Tierney's Woods area, it should be noted that LWCF monies under Project Nos. 27-00290, 27-00324, 27-00343, 27-00414, 27-00645, and 27-00646, have been provided to the cities of Eden Prairie and Bloomington, through the State of Minnesota, for land acquisition.

Compliance with Section 6(f) should be coordinated with Ms. Avonell Hagen, Assistant Commissioner for Planning, Department of Natural Resources, 301 Centennial Building, Box 11, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155, who administers the program in Minnesota and with the National Park Service. The results of this coordination should be included in the final statement.

Because this is a directly connected action with functional interdependence to the build alternatives, it is important that the final EIS adequately address this matter in order that we may adopt your document for our compliance with NEPA.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT COMMENTS

Figures 10 and 6 depict MVNWRRA lands as Category VA (Vacant-Agricultural). They should be revised to show the lands as Public-Quasi Public.

Since 1970, the only mineral resources produced in Hennepin and Scott Counties have been limestone, clay, and sand and gravel. Because these resources are widespread in the area and because of the urban nature and public status of much of the project area, no project alternative will significantly impact the availability of mineral resources or mineral development in the area.

FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION ACT COMMENTS

The FWS will be commenting on the issuance of any required permits. The final environmental statement should include sufficient site-specific data so that appropriate mitigating measures can be recommended when the permit applications are reviewed. Furthermore, the Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) analysis for the project was conducted under the assumption that all routes would be placed on structure throughout the Minnesota River floodplain. If placement of embankment rather than structure is contemplated in the floodplain, the HEP analysis would require revision. However, the FWS advises that it does not foresee any major problem with development of mitigation, comments on required permits, or necessary grants of rights-of-way for use of MVNWRRA lands.

SUMMARY COMMENTS

The Department of the Interior has no objection to Section 4(f) approval of Alternative 6 for the CSAH-18 project, provided site-specific measures to minimize harm are resolved and included in the final statement, along with commitments for funding such measures at project expense.

Should Alternative 6 not be selected, additional coordination with NPS, FWS and other appropriate agencies/officials should be undertaken to develop special mitigation measures to assure the compatibility of the CSAH-18 project with the Section 4(f) lands traversed. We would be glad to expeditiously reconsider our recommendation of Alternative 6 upon receipt of additional information concerning the two provisos of Section 4(f) as discussed above.

We will continue to cooperate and coordinate with you and MN-DOT in further project evaluation and assessment. For matters pertaining to cultural, park, and recreational resources, please contact the Regional Director, Midwest Region, National Park Service, 1709 Jackson Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 (telephone: FTS 864-3431 or commercial 402/221-3431). For fish and wildlife matters, please consult the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 550 Nalpak Building, 333 Sibley Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 (telephone: FTS 725-7131 or commercial 612/725-7131).

Mr. William R. Lake

4

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely



Bruce Blanchard, Director
Environmental Project Review

cc: MN-DOT, St. Paul, MN
Hennepin County DOT, Hopkins, MN
Scott County Highway Dept., Shakopee, MN

Defenders OF WILDLIFE

March 30, 1983

Hon. Walter B. Jones, Chrmn
House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Jones,

I am writing in support of the legislation pending to amend the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (PL 94-466). Our members have taken an active interest in the Minnesota River Valley since the Refuge was established in 1976 and we now have serious concerns regarding its future.

We are most anxious that the acquisition authority be extended beyond the October 1983 deadline and that the funding be increased as necessary for both land acquisition and development. We believe that it is important that the Refuge be expanded to include the 3,000 acres of Wilke Park presently owned by Hennepin County.

A prime purpose of the Minnesota Valley Refuge is to provide environmental education and wildlife interpretation. It is impossible for the Refuge to adequately fill this function without a visitor center. As you know, the Minnesota Valley Refuge is unique in that it provides recreational opportunity for 2 million area residents that live within a half hour drive from the refuge.

We would appreciate any action that you can take to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete the plan for the Minnesota Valley Refuge.

Sincerely yours,

Harriet Lykken
Harriet Lykken
Field Representative
4600 Emerson Av. S.
Mpls. MN 55409

Defenders OF WILDLIFE

March 30, 1983

Hon. John Chafee, Chrmn
Senate Committee on Environmental Pollution
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chafee,

I am writing in support of the legislation pending to amend the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (PL 94-466). Our members have taken an active interest in the Minnesota River Valley since the Refuge was established in 1976 and we now have serious concerns regarding its future.

We are most anxious that the acquisition authority be extended beyond the October 1983 deadline and that the funding be increased as necessary for both land acquisition and development. We believe that it is important that the Refuge be expanded to include the 3,000 acres of Wilke Park presently owned by Hennepin County.

A prime purpose of the Minnesota Valley Refuge is to provide environmental education and wildlife interpretation. It is impossible for the Refuge to adequately fill this function without a visitor center. As you know, the Minnesota Valley Refuge is unique in that it provides recreational opportunity for 2 million area residents that live within a half hour drive from the refuge.

We would appreciate any action that you can take to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete the plan for the Minnesota Valley Refuge.

Sincerely yours,

Harriet Lykken

Harriet Lykken
Field Representative
4600 Emerson Av. S.
Mpls. MN 55409

C DD + RB



WALTER B. JONES, N.C., CHAIRMAN

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JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR., MAINE
WEBB FRANKLIN, MISS.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on
Merchant Marine and Fisheries
Room 1334, Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 6, 1983

Ms. Harriet Lykken
Field Representative
Defenders of Wildlife
4600 Emerson Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

Dear Ms. Lykken:

Thank you for your letter of March 30, 1983 requesting my support for reauthorization of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I appreciate your outlining the changes needed to P.L. 96-466.

It is my understanding that the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment plans to mark up the refuge reauthorization bill (H. R. 1723), which includes Minnesota Valley, in the near future. I will be glad to give your views consideration when the bill reaches the Full Committee level.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



WALTER B. JONES
Chairman

H. F. CHAMBERLAIN

428 S. SECOND ST.
LESUEUR, MN 56058

Dear Sy,

I was both surprised and pleased to receive your letter today in which you inquire whether I would consider serving on the "Honorary Board" of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley. While I have no lack of activities important to me, and to society I hope, I hasten to accept the offer and I will endeavor to be conscientious in serving.

The Minnesota Valley is, of course, a unique corridor in a pretty heavily farmed section and well worth some special consideration. I attended a meeting relating to the new National Wildlife Refuge & Recreation area - it must have been seven or eight years ago now - and while there had been times when prospects looked very bleak, the job finally got done. I do realize that with both private and public funds in short supply these efforts are more difficult. But the projects must go forward.

I was particularly interested in your account of the place on Shetek, a lake I have been somewhat acquainted with for a lot of years. Was there just briefly last summer, on the west end near the old Valhalla Dance Hall. I believe

they called it.

Sometime when you're in Le Sueur
please mention my Indian ceremonial
stones from Shetek. They are unique
to the point of being bizarre. In the
Smithsonian I saw one stone similar
to one of these, a fetish stone, but most
of these are called eccentric flints.
My father obtained these stones from
an old gentleman who used to live
in Slagton, Ned Smith, by name and
a cobbler, now dead. I stopped there
to look up his ~~name~~ but fell but he
had gone on somewhere. My father
said Ned found these some 25
pieces within a small perimeter
on a shore of Lake Shetek, as though
they had been in a leather bag and
the medicine man had dropped them,
never to be recovered by him.
At this hour no one can verify
any of the above, but I have the
stones. I'll attempt to draw
one for you:



and



this is the fetish, meant to represent a
cat lying down.

Best regards. I now have 42
acres of real and virtual
prairie. Will show you sometime
and it's along the Minnesota River.

Horace

Regards to Florida

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittees:

Housing & Urban Development
and Independent Agencies

Transportation



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

April 22, 1983

Harriet Lykken
Field Representative
Defenders of Wildlife
4600 Emerson Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

Dear Ms. Lykken:

Thank you for the copy of your letter to Congressman Walter Jones expressing your support for continued funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

I have been monitoring legislative action regarding the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge Act with great interest. This week, the House passed legislation to reauthorize the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge Act and increased the authorization levels in the Act for acquisition funding and development. The next step will be to gain an appropriation for the Act at the authorized levels. You can be sure I will continue to follow this matter closely.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/ebc

Friends of the

**Minnesota
Valley**



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

May 3, 1983

The Honorable Martin O. Sabo
436 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman:

We would like to thank you for your support and effort in getting the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (PL 94-466) approved by the U. S. House of Representatives. We were very pleased to hear of last week's event. Your special efforts on this project are very much appreciated.

If we can be of help with land acquisition and visitor center design funds in the Appropriations Committee, please let us know. We will also be corresponding with Congressmen Frenzel and Oberstar, and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee on this subject.

We are truly grateful for your interest and response to this project. The enclosed editorial from the Bloomington Current helps to express our feelings.

Sincerely,

Ed Martin, Chairman
Friends of the Minnesota
Valley

Elaine Mellott
Friends of the Minnesota
Valley

kt
Enc.



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

May 3, 1983

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
2351 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman:

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Ed Martin, Chairman
Friends of the Minnesota
Valley



Elaine Mellott, Member
Friends of the Minnesota
Valley

kt
Enc.

Friends of the

**Minnesota
Valley**



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

May 3, 1983

The Honorable Bill Frenzel
1026 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

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Ed Martin, Chairman
Friends of the Minnesota
Valley

Elaine Mellott, Member
Friends of the Minnesota
Valley

kt
Enc.

National Audubon Society

NORTH MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
SUITE 920, LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING
10 SOUTH FIFTH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401 (612) 375-9140



May 13, 1983

Honorable David Durenberger
550 East Butler Square
100 North Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Dear Senator Durenberger:

National Audubon is very much aware of your strong support and commitment to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. We understand that the Environmental Pollution Subcommittee of the Environment and Public Works Committee will be considering the needs of this refuge at a May 19 hearing. I hope you will see fit to make this letter a part of that hearing record.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of the newer federal refuges having been established in 1976. It is a place where the urban and the wild environments merge - it is an ecotone. As with most ecotones where two communities meet, there are great diversity, excitement and challenges here.

Scores of jet airplanes roar in and out of nearby Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport - and some 250 species of birds (including whistling swans, white pelicans and bald eagles) may be found at the refuge.

Northern States Power Company's Black Dog power plant is in the midst of the refuge and the company leases 1,400 acres to the Fish and Wildlife Service as a limited use sanctuary.

Environmental awareness and education as well as habitat enhancement and wildlife conservation occur at this refuge. People in the area have positive feelings and great pride in this new refuge. Indeed, it has been adopted by our Minnesota River Valley Audubon chapter under National Audubon's Adopt-A-Refuge program.

At this point, it is necessary and desirable for the Congress to provide authority and funding as follows:

Senator David Durenberger
May 13, 1983
Page 2

- 1) Acquisition Authority - This is due to expire in October, 1983.
The Authorization should be indefinitely extended until such time
as acquisition is completed for the Refuge.
- 2) Appropriation - This is needed in the amount of \$24.9 million as
is in the House-passed Bill.

Because its proximity to the Twin Cities population center, there is perhaps
more need than at many refuges for a first class visitor center in order to
carry out interpretive programs essential to understanding and appreciation
without which wise citizen use and protection are virtually impossible.

We urge the Committee's positive response to these needs.

Sincerely,

Edward Brigham (jf)

Edward M. Brigham, III
Regional Vice President

EMB/jf

cc: Congressman Martin Sabo
Congressman William Frenzel
Senator Rudy Boshwitz
Robert Lonning, President, Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club
Mary Ellen Vetter, President, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
Bill McCormick, President, St. Paul Audubon Society
Kay Schwie, President, Friends of the Minnesota Valley



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN -1 1983

Honorable John H. Chafee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chafee:

This responds to your May 6 letter concerning draft amendments that Mr. Ed Martin, Chairman of Friends of the Minnesota Valley, would like to be considered in reauthorizing the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MNVNR).

I shall address the proposed amendments to the Sections of PL 96-466 in the order you presented them.

The proposed Section 4(a)(1) adjusts refuge boundaries and increases the size of the refuge. The Service is presently developing a Land Protection Plan (LPP) for the MNVNR scheduled to be completed March 1984 which, among other things, will describe the resources needing protection, document and rank alternatives to carry out the protection, determine what interests need to be in Service ownership and identify management alternatives. The Administration would oppose an increase of the size of the refuge until the LPP is completed.

The proposed Section 4(b)(1) authorizes the Secretary to acquire lands owned by the State and its political subdivisions. Congress has consistently required Senate Appropriations Committee approval before the Federal agencies use Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) to acquire publicly owned land. In addition, the LPP may find that a lease, cooperative agreement, or other alternative is preferable to Federal fee acquisition.

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The proposed Section 7(a) expands the Secretary's authority to provide financial assistance to political subdivisions of the State to acquire lands in the recreation area and to similarly reimburse the State and its political subdivisions for land within the refuge. The current Section 7(a) requires that grants be subject to Section 6 of the LWCF which establishes a 50 percent matching requirement. This proposed section would remove that requirement, defeating the intent of the LWCF Act. This section also reiterates the proposed Section 4(b)(1) relating to the Secretary purchasing State land. The Senate Appropriations Committee has on several occasions expressed their opposition to such action.

The proposed Section 10(a) increases the acquisition spending authority and extends the authorization "until expended." During this period of fiscal restraint, the administration is opposed to such an increase. We do, however, support extension of the authorization time period. It appears that the funds authorized by this section would not provide for the acquisition of the 1,652 acres of public land which would have to be purchased under the amendment to Section 4(b)(1).

The proposed Section 10(b) increases the spending authority for development and extends the authorization "until expended." During this period of fiscal restraint, the administration is opposed to such increases. We do, however, support extension of the authorization time period.

The proposed Section 10(c) allows the Secretary to accept gifts and includes authorization to enter into a lease-purchase agreement not to exceed 20 years for a visitor center. In addition, it provides that for the purposes of Federal income tax, property and proceeds therefore shall be considered as a gift to the United States. Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 currently provides general authority for all aspects of 10(c) except the 20-year lease-purchase authority. This would increase the Service's flexibility for providing facilities as opposed to the existing pay-as-you-go way of doing business, but as yet this approach is under consideration. Therefore, we are not able to support it at this time.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on these draft amendments. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

/SGD./ROBERT A. JANTZEN

Director

cc: Regional Director, R-3
Refuge Manager, Minnesota Valley NWR

Ed gone

Elaine
talk to
Kunkinhood re
land use. in
W. Bloom.
write letter.

call

Need need

July 12th

at Do. Lake Lib.

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

**Honorary
Board of Directors**

Elmer L. Andersen
Roseville, Minnesota

Raymond Black
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Walter Breckenridge
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Forest A. Carpenter
Prior Lake, Minnesota

Horace F. Chamberlain
LeSueur, Minnesota

Wallace C. Dayton
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Bemidji, Minnesota

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Washington, D. C.

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Vienna, Virginia

Shirley K. Hunt
Edina, Minnesota

James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Manuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

June 1, 1983

The Honorable Bruce Vento
Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman:

In April you voted to approve a bill to re-authorize activity in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. We are extremely appreciative of your actions. We have been advised that in early June a House-Senate conference meeting will be held to work out final language between the House version of the bill and the Senate version passed out of the subcommittee on Environmental Pollution May 19th.

The Senate version differs from the House in that it allows for an increase in the boundaries, primarily to incorporate an already existing county park and would extend indefinitely the period of time available to complete land acquisition rather than limiting it to 3 years. Other differences are described or may be evaluated in the attached testimony and our recommended Amendment to PL94-466.

Please work with the Minnesota delegation to help us attain Congressional approval of the Senate version of this legislation as well as obtaining Presidential approval and 1984 appropriations.

Again, thank you for this commitment to our States' future.

Sincerely,

M. D. Bosanko
Legislative Chairman

E. M. Mellott
Member of the Board

MDB/EMM
kt

Attach. 1. 5/19/83 testimony to Senate subcommittee on pollution & USFWS.

2. Suggested Amendments to PL94-466.

Friends of the



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55420

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James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Wm. H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

June 1, 1983

The Honorable Vin Weber
514 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

muel H. Morgan
Paul, Minnesota

June 1, 1983

The Honorable Dave Durenberger
353 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dave:

Thank you again for your graciousness and warmth at the Senate subcommittee hearing on the Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The respect you gave to the project, to me and the others who have worked so long for this river corridor was very touching and meaningful. I am pleased you are our Senator and making so many positive choices on the tough issues the Senate deals with each day.

As Shirley once said to me, our creeks and rivers are like life lines which bring caring people together so we may sustain each other and enjoy the rarest riches.

We shall always remember your actions and caring on behalf of the Minnesota River Valley.

Sincerely yours,

Elaine Mellott

EM/kt

Harried

June 1, 1983

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

**Honorary
Board of Directors**

Elmer L. Andersen
Roseville, Minnesota

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Washington, D. C.

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Edina, Minnesota

James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

The Honorable Rudy Boschwitz
Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator:

We know that you have been assisting Senator Durenberger on the bill to re-authorize activity in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. We are extremely appreciative of your actions. We have been advised that in early June a House-Senate conference meeting will be held to work out final language between the House version of the bill and the Senate version passed out of the subcommittee on Environmental Pollution May 19th.

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Please work with the Minnesota delegation to help us attain Congressional approval of the Senate version of the legislation as well as obtaining Presidential approval and 1984 appropriations.

Again, thank you for this commitment to our States' future.

Sincerely,

E. M. Mellott

M. D. Bosanko
Legislative Chairman

E. M. Mellott
Member of the Board

MDB/EMM
kt

- Attach. 1. 5/19/83 testimony to Senate subcommittee on pollution & USFWS.
2. Suggested Amendments to PL94-466.

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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Dr. Walter Breckenridge
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Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Muel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

June 1, 1983

The Honorable Gerry Sikorski
414 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Legislative Chairman

E. M. Mellott
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2. Suggested Amendments to PL94-466.

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St. Paul, Minnesota

June 1, 1983

The Honorable Tim Penny
501 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Legislative Chairman

E. M. Mellott
Member of the Board

MDB/EMM
kt

Attach. 1. 5/19/83 testimony to Senate subcommittee on pollution & USFWS.

2. Suggested Amendments to PL94-466.

Friends of the



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55420

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Charles M. Moos
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Manuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

June 1, 1983

The Honorable Arlan Stangeland
1519 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Legislative Chairman

E. M. Mellott
Member of the Board

MDB/EMM
kt

Attach. 1. 5/19/83 testimony to Senate subcommittee on pollution & USFWS.

2. Suggested Amendments to PL94-466.

June
Bancroft 1983

SAMPLE

Horace F. Chamberlain
428 S. Second St.
LeSueur, MN 56058

Dear Mr. Chamberlain,

I am writing on behalf of our members and our Directors to express our appreciation for your willingness to serve as an Honorary Board Member for the Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

I am also enclosing a copy of the minutes of our June meeting. We usually meet on the second Tuesday of the month and you are certainly welcome to attend any or all of our board meetings. We hope to schedule a special event for our Honorary Board of Directors to be held at the Refuge some time in September so that we will have an opportunity to discuss the goals of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley and the Refuge. In the meantime, we will continue to send you copies of the minutes of our monthly meetings.

Sincerely yours,

Harriet Lykken, Secretary



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN -1 1983

Honorable John H. Chafee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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We thank you for the opportunity to comment on these draft amendments. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

/SGD./ROBERT A. JANTZEN

Director

cc: Regional Director, R-3
Refuge Manager, Minnesota Valley NWR

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittees:

Housing & Urban Development
and Independent Agencies

Transportation



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4756

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

June 3, 1983

The Honorable Sidney R. Yates, Chairman
Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you mark up the 1984 Interior Appropriations Bill I urge you to consider the needs of the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge. This refuge was established in 1976. It is located within the Twin Cities metropolitan area and provides important scientific, educational and recreational benefits to the people of that area.

As you know, the development of this refuge was moving along quite nicely until the Administration cut off funding for the program in 1981. A significant amount of work needs to be done both in land acquisition and construction of the interpretive center. Only \$3.1 million (\$600,000 for design of the center and \$2.5 million for acquisition) are needed in fiscal year 1984. I urge you to appropriate these funds.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

cc: all members of Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

MOS/ebn

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittees:

Housing & Urban Development
and Independent Agencies
Transportation



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

June 13, 1983

Ed Martin & Elaine Mellott
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Mr. Martin and Ms. Mellott:

Thank you for writing me to express your support of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. At my request, the Interior Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee included \$2,500,000 for new land acquisitions for the refuge. Unfortunately, no new funds for construction were appropriated for any refuge in the country, so the visitor center will have to be postponed.

I am pleased that we can now get the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge moving along. Enclosed are copies of the letter I sent and the testimony I presented to the Interior Subcommittee. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/jsf

Enclosures

436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 1983

CONTACT: Kevin Bonderud
(202) 225-4755

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES PARK, WEATHERIZATION FUNDS

The House Appropriations Committee today approved a bill that includes \$9.5 million for three Minnesota parks. The Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge, which has not received any money for three years, was allocated \$2.5 million for land acquisition. The legislation also provided \$4 million to buy land for Voyageurs National Park and a \$3 million grant to continue reforestation and road work in the Boundary Water Canoe Area (BWCA).

Congressman Martin Olav Sabo (DFL), a member of the committee, said that he was "pleased that we were successful in funding" the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge. "After a three-year standstill, it looks like we will get the program going again. There is no reason to continue to delay the development of this refuge." Sabo said that the refuge, which is composed of a series of flood plain marshes along the main channel of the Minnesota River, "provides important scientific, educational, and recreational benefits for Twin Cities-area residents. It is also an important habitat for a wide variety of wildlife,"

The 9,500-acre refuge was established by Congress in 1976. Congress provided money in 1978-1981, but the Reagan Administration cut off funding for the program in 1981. No money has reached Minnesota since 1980 and President Reagan again proposed that no money be allocated for the project next year. Rep. Sabo said that 2,850 acres of land still need to be purchased.

Weatherization. The House panel also rejected the President's request to kill two energy conservation programs. Instead \$243.5 million were included for the low-income weatherization program, which



Fish & Wildlife Service
Mr. River Valley (Appropriations)
Reynolds

National Audubon Society

NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE

645 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, S.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003 (202) 547-9009

Bring
Honduras
94 leaves
to 1.

July 29, 1983

RECEIVED

AUG 3 1983

CB

The Honorable James A. McClure
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Interior and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

EDWARD M. BRIGHAM III

Dear Mr. Chairman :

The National Audubon Society appreciates your support for the funding of important fish and wildlife programs in the FY 1984 Interior Appropriations bill. We are particularly appreciative of the \$2 million increase over the budget provided for the Fish and Wildlife Service's law enforcement and protection activities and the additional funds provided for the recovery of the woodland caribou (+\$100,000).

→ In the forthcoming conference with the House, we strongly urge you to adopt the House funding levels for the endangered species program, particularly the \$1 million for the listing program and the \$4 million for the Section 6 cooperative state grant program. The Fish and Wildlife Service has now screened and qualified almost 2,000 species as viable candidates for listing with adequate information on hand. Almost 1,800 of these species are noncontroversial plants. The Service's current target calls for the listing of only 50 species per year; at this rate it will take the Service 40 years to meet its current objective. The Section 6 grant program currently provides funds for the recovery of endangered species in 39 states. These states are making major contributions to the recovery efforts of such species as the bald eagle, whooping crane, grizzly bear, woodland caribou, California condor, and peregrine falcon. We also urge your acceptance of the House funding level (+\$200,000) for the California condor research program, as these funds are necessary for the habitat evaluation studies planned for the coming year.

We are very gratified by the level of support provided in the Senate version of the Interior Appropriations bill for land acquisition. However, we urge you to accept the House funding level for Rio Grande Valley NWR (\$1,500,000). The Service has completed the land protection plan for this refuge and currently has options to buy approximately 1,000 acres of endangered brush-land habitat. We also urge you to consider at least partial funding of the California condor, Protection Island and Minnesota Valley NWR projects.

Finally, we ask you to adopt the House funding level (\$7 million) for the Migratory Bird Conservation Account to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase The Nature Conservancy's interest in the Barrow Ranch, an MBCC-approved addition to Anahuac NWR. If these funds are not forthcoming, the Conservancy will have to renegotiate its contract which will cost the Service \$2 million in future additional payments.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Amos S. Eno
Director
Wildlife Programs

DISTRIBUTION

Identical letter (minus reference to Mr. Chairman) sent to:

Members of the Subcommittee:

Ted Stevens
Paul Laxalt
Jake Garn
Thad Cochran
Mark Andrews
Warren Rudman
Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.
Robert C. Byrd
J. Bennett Johnston
Walter D. Huddleston
Patrick Leahy
Dennis DeConcini
Quentin N. Burdick
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Senators:

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David F. Durenberger
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bcc: Nathaniel P. Reed
Rupe Cutler
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Andy Sampson, TNC, Texas

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

August 30, 1983

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club
P.O. Box 20400
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear MRVAC Board:

We want you to know how very much we've appreciated your continuing support. Your grant this summer arrived at a crucial moment, and was most sincerely appreciated. Our funds were quite low due to publication of a newsletter and the printing of letterhead. At the same time, we were faced with a need to send one of our Board members to Washington to testify in a Senate hearing that directly affected Mn. River Valley land acquisition funds and other critical items regarding the Mn. Valley National Wildlife Refuge. (The bill had successfully gone through the House, but some difficulty was anticipated in the Senate even though we had strong support from Sen. Durenberger.) This was the most significant piece of legislation that would impact the Refuge since the Refuge had been created, and your funds made it possible for us to be personally represented by a member of the Friends board.

The final outcome is still pending and must be resolved in a conference committee, since there were significant differences between the two Houses of Congress. We feel that our presence there will have a positive effect on the eventual outcome. We are most grateful for your help and continued support!

Best regards,

Kay Schwie,
Board Member

BRUCE F. VENTO
4TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

2433 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6631

DISTRICT OFFICE:
ROOM 150
MEARS PARK PLACE
405 SIBLEY STREET
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101
(612) 725-7724

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
BANKING, FINANCE AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON AGING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 16, 1983

M.A. Bosanko and E.M. Mellott
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, MN 55420

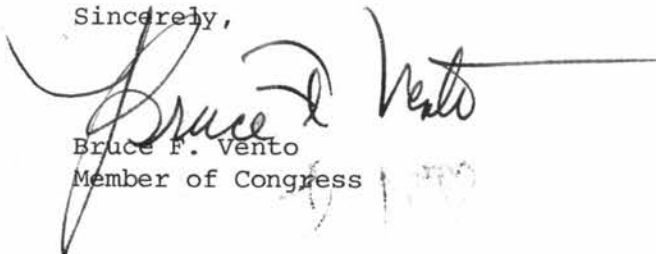
Dear Friends:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for authorization and appropriation legislation to enhance the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

I supported both the House-passed authorization legislation and the FY 1984 Interior Appropriations provision providing \$2.5 million for land acquisition at the Refuge. Now that the House has passed these measures, it remains to be seen what the final Senate versions will look like. I am hopeful that any differences between the House and Senate measures can be worked out in a satisfactory manner, so that Minnesota Valley Refuge can continue its important work.

I appreciate your sharing with me your interest in these matters.

Sincerely,


Bruce F. Vento
Member of Congress

BFV:ccj

December 23, 1983

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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Board of Directors**

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Adela Skipton Elwell
Bemidji, Minnesota

The Honorable Bill Frenzel
Washington, D. C.

Robert L. Herbst
Vienna, Virginia

Shirley K. Hunt
Edina, Minnesota

James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

Tim Kelly
Office of Planning
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
444 La Fayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Kelly:

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area and State Trail. You are to be complemented on your effort. The Comprehensive Plan pulls together in one document many of the dreams and ideas that some members of our organization have had for many years. We urge the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to press on with the implementation of the plan as soon as possible.

We do, however, wish to repeat the same concern that we have had throughout the planning process, which centers on the balance between wildlife and recreation in the wildlife refuge. We have the impression that recreation is the dominant use, and that you are not remaining steadfast to the overall goal of preserving the natural resources of the valley. It is our fear that the level of trail users, as forecasted in the plan, will significantly impact on the adjacent wildlife populations, and therefore, we wish to be assured that there is some continuous monitoring of trail use and that when levels become excessive, or beyond that which would appear compatible with wildlife, that the trail use be restricted.

In that same regard, we are concerned about the amount of wildlife sanctuary remaining within the project once there is full development. In a review of the plan text and maps, it is not apparent there is any inviolate sanctuary being proposed, and we believe that should be a necessary ingredient of any wildlife area plan. Please either designate inviolate sanctuaries in the plan, or reassure us that such sanctuaries will exist if not actually identified.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your excellent plan.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Bosanko
Acting President

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittees

Housing & Urban Development
and Independent Agencies

Transportation



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 13, 1984

436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

Mr. Edward S. Crozier, Refuge Manager
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
4101 East 78th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Mr. Crozier:

Pursuant to our meeting on December 16, 1983, I have had my staff check on the authorization bills for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Actually the Senate has not yet passed an authorization bill for the Refuge. If it were to do so this spring, I would be happy to urge the House conferees to accede to the Senate in any provision where the Senate bill is more favorable than the House version. However, in the absence of a Senate bill there is not much the House can do on the matter. I advise you to urge your Senators to try to get some reauthorization bill passed on the Senate side so we can go to conference and get a new law in 1984.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

CROZIER	
LUGER	
IRBY	
LABON	
PARSONS	
MOYER	
WORLDWIDE	
SHERWOOD	
CUNDEN	
FILE / LIBRARY	
DEAD LINE	
TOSS	

#6M
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Heidi

Call house
M. O. Sabo
Committee
226 - 3522
passed house & Senate
Jeff Curtis

Elaine
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of the status
of the refuge
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ourselves. E. & her
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a problem.
EC

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O.D.
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call Vanto & Mangel
Steve
Shimberg
202 - 224-6228
I have call
Sabo's office

Seems to be some confusion
work up to house
& keep you up
to date

JAMES L. OBERSTAR
8TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION

CHAIRMAN:
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 19, 1984

PLEASE SEND REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2351 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ☐
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6211

DISTRICT OFFICES:
BRainerd CITY HALL ☐
501 LAUREL STREET
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(218) 727-7474

Elaine Mellott, President
Michael A. Bosanko, Vice President
and Legislative Chairman
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Ms. Mellott and Mr. Bosanko:

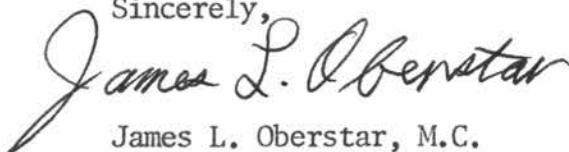
Thank you for taking the time to write and express your views on the reauthorization for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I appreciate your kind words about my efforts on behalf of the Refuge.

I appreciate knowing of your support for \$29,500 ,000 for land acquisition, as well as for an unlimited amount of time in which to expend acquisition funds.

The House and Senate conferees will, no doubt, try to work out a compromise which has the best chance of passing both bodies of Congress and being signed into law by the President. I hope they feel that the language you want can realistically be included in the bill. You can count on my support.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your views with me.

Sincerely,


James L. Oberstar, M.C.

JLO:njs

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittees:

Housing & Urban Development
and Independent Agencies

Transportation



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

January 26, 1984

Ms. Elaine Mellott
Mr. Michael A. Bosanko
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Ms. Mellott and Mr. Bosanko:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Congressman Oberstar.

I have urged my colleagues on the authorizing committee to approve the authorization for acquisition and development funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

I serve on the House Appropriations Committee and I'm pleased to report to you that last year we managed to appropriate \$1,000,000 for this refuge in spite of the fact that President Reagan did not include any funding for this program in his budget. This is the first time any federal funds have been appropriated for this program since 1980.

I will monitor the action of the authorizing committee very closely this spring and intend to push for more funding in the Appropriations Committee as well.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/ebm

ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT., CHAIRMAN

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GEORGE J. MITCHELL, MAINE
MAX BAUCUS, MONT.

BAILEY GUARD, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN W. YAGO, JR., MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 29, 1984

Ms. Elaine Mellott
9400 Cedar Avenue #101
Minneapolis, MN 55420

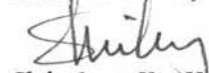
Dear Elaine:

Enclosed is a copy of language from Senate Report 233 regarding purchase of "publically owned lands", such as the property owned by the Hennepin County Park Reserve District and the City of Bloomington in the Minnesota Valley Refuge.

It would seem advisable to run it by the committee appropriations once the Refuge bill has been signed into law. However, a good deal of coordination should be done with the authorizing committee and Interior as well as the House staff. As you know, Steve Shimberg - 202-224-6228 is the Environment and Public Works Committee staff.

We can discuss if you like.

Best wishes,



Shirley K. Hunt
Legislative Assistant
Senator Dave Durenberger's Office

SKH:11



In answer to
your request,
we are pleased
to send the
enclosed material
and hope it will
be helpful.

Shirley -

*Per our discussion
on Minnesota Valley refuge
Walt McElhat*

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

1983 OCT 24

ACQUISITION OF PUBLIC LANDS

Senate Report 233, 90th Congress, 1st Session, FY 1968, p. 9

"The Committee directs that there be no Federal acquisition of lands now in public ownership until efforts have been made to acquire the lands by donations or by such a procedure as an irrevocable use permit If efforts to secure publicly owned lands without cost are unsuccessful, a purchase shall not be made until approved by the Committee on Appropriations."

PISCATAWAY PARK

House Report No. 343, 90th Congress, 1st Session, FY 1968, p. 7

"The conferees direct that no individual responsible for land acquisition in Piscataway Park shall take any action, including declaration of taking or condemnation proceedings, which will obligate the Federal Government in excess of the total funds made available for this purpose."

HIGH COSTS PER ACRE AND IMPROVEMENTS

House Report No. 1405, 89th Congress, 2nd Session, FY 1967, p. 12

"...the Committee expects the Bureau to pay particular attention to tracts that have a high cost per acre or substantial costs for improvements."

PRIORITIES

House Report No. 1405, 89th Congress, 2nd Session, FY 1967, p. 12

"The Committee further expects first priority to be given to Federal acquisitions which will implement recent authorizations of the Congress."

Senate Report No. 233, 90th Congress, 2nd Session, FY 1968, p. 9

"The committee continues to believe that Federal agencies should proceed as rapidly as feasible to purchase lands in recently authorized areas in order to help reduce the effect of price escalation; and that in most instances lower priority should be given to purchases of lands with substantial improvements thereon, and to those having mainly archeological or historic values as distinct from recreation values."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INHOLDINGS

House Report No. 1395, 90th Congress, 2nd Session, FY 1969, p. 16

"...the Committee directs that no obligation shall be incurred for the acquisition of in-holdings until the prior approval in writing for the acquisition is obtained from this Committee."



STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BOX 20, CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA • 55155

DNR INFORMATION
(612) 296-6157

May 8, 1984

FILE NO. _____

Elaine Mellott, President
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

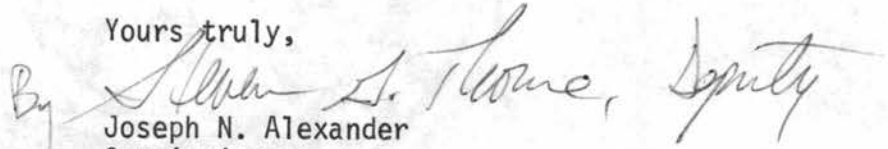
Dear Ms. Mellott:

Governor Perpich has asked me to respond to your request for aid in obtaining funds for construction of a wildlife interpretive and educational center. The site in Bloomington overlooking the Minnesota River Valley is indeed outstanding in all the values you mention.

We are very supportive of the efforts of your organization in environmental education and wildlife management education. We will use whatever influence we have to gain the assistance of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation and others in government to provide funding for this highly worthwhile project.

As of this writing, much to our disappointment, state funds are not available.

Yours truly,

By 
Joseph N. Alexander
Commissioner

JNA:rp

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittees:

Housing & Urban Development
and Independent Agencies
Transportation



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

May 9, 1984

Ms. Elaine Melliott, President
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Ms. Melliott:

Thank you for writing to express your concerns about funding for the proposed Wildlife Interpretive and Education Center to be built in Bloomington.

You may be sure that I will support this worthwhile project. In fact, I have joined my House colleagues from the Twin Cities area in writing Congressman Sidney Yates, Chairman of the Interior Subcommittee of Appropriations, urging him to provide the funds for this project.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/ebd

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittees:

Housing & Urban Development
and Independent Agencies
Transportation



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

June 22, 1984

Ms. E.M. Mellott, President
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Elaine:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concern
for the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge.

The Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations
Committee met on June 19 to mark-up the interior appropriations
bill for fiscal year 1985. You will be happy to learn that the
committee recommended \$1.5 million for land acquisitions for the
Minnesota Valley Refuge and \$600,000 for planning funds for the
Visitors Center.

I hope this information is of use to you.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/eb

*Irene
Balmgartner
called 6/20/84*

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5th District, Minnesota

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Subcommittees:

Housing & Urban Development
and Independent Agencies
Transportation



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

426 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 Federal Courts Building
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 349-5110

July 13, 1984

Ms. Elaine Mellott, President
Friends of the Refuge
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
4101 East 78th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Elaine:

Thank you for arranging the meeting for
me with the folks at the Minnesota Valley National
Wildlife Refuge on Wednesday.

It is always pleasant to visit the Refuge
and it is helpful for me to be informed of activities
involving it.

Please express my thanks to all of the
Friends for the fine picture. It will remind me
of the beauty of the Refuge when I am in Washington.

With personal regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin".

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/kag

Elaine, Mike & Joyce

National Audubon Society

NORTH MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
SUITE 920, LUMBER EXCHANGE BUILDING
10 SOUTH FIFTH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401 (612) 375-9140



September 4, 1984

The Environmental Quality Board
State of Minnesota
c/o Mr. Greg Downing
Room 100 Capitol Square Bldg.
550 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Gentlemen:

Enclosed are comments by the North Midwest Regional Office of the National Audubon Society on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Airport South project.

The National Audubon Society is concerned with the integrity of all National Wildlife Refuges, and especially in this case, the Minnesota Valley Refuge.

The refuge system has the potential to provide society with enormous wildlife benefits. In the face of increasing habitat loss and environmental destruction for short-term gain, refuges stand alone as lands devoted solely to preserving and enhancing wildlife habitat.

It is with these benefits in mind that we offer comments on the DEIS. In most cases, amplification of information given or additional information is necessary. Specifically:

Section 6-2 Air Quality:

Why was the impact of only carbon monoxide chosen for discussion? Increased traffic as expected from the project could alter the levels not only of carbon monoxide, but of particulates, hydrocarbons, lead, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and photochemical oxidants. The MPCA is charged with monitoring these pollutants to insure compliance with state and national standards. All potential air pollutant levels impacted by the project need to be discussed in an EIS.

Section 6.5.3-(Stormwater) Runoff Quantity:

It is unclear how this statement could be correct: "the net effect of development on runoff within the proposed Airport South District ... (from) the annual runoff volumes to Long Meadow Lake from the watershed would increase only about six percent . . . for a year with average precipitation".

Summarizing the text, it is evident that:

<u>Watershed</u>	<u>Stormwater Volume Increase</u> (with proposed Airport South Project:
Old Shakopee Road	Less than 5%
80th Street	26%
Bluffs	Slight (-) decrease
22nd Avenue	3%
Pond C	2% (includes 4 stormwater treatment and retention basins)
Pond 1	Unclear - no projections for storm sewer and collection system to be built.

Adding the column of stormwater volume increase does not provide a value close to the 6% increase values as stated on the text (even allowing for retention amounts in Pond 1 and Pond C watersheds). More information is needed for clarification. Also, outfalls from the 80th Street and Old Shakopee Road watersheds will discharge directly into Long Meadow Lake without the benefit of treatment. The text states that "This additional runoff volume is not anticipated to create significant adverse impacts to water quality in Long Meadow Lake provided this additional runoff is treated prior to being discharged (emphasis added) into the lake." However, only Pond C and Pond 1 watersheds are designed to retain water, and only the Pond C watershed is designed to treat the retained water. Thus, the discharge from the outlets for 80th Street and Old Shakopee Road watersheds will enter Long Meadow Lake untreated, and this effect needs to be further discussed as such in the test. The quantity of runoff affects the water levels in the Refuge, and thus its inhabitants.

Section 6.5.3 Stormwater Runoff Impacts on Receiving Bodies:

Data on water quality of Long Meadow Lake in summer is essential to foretell whether the Minnesota Valley Refuge can maintain a quality environment for the species living there. It is not sufficient to state that during construction water quality will be at the lowest point. How does that level of quality affect the species which use the lake and the Refuge.

Section 6.6.3-Groundwater

What will the effect of removing a spring be on the Minnesota Valley Refuge?

Section 6.6.5-Evaluation of Groundwater Impacts:

Of what would a "permanent inplace dewatering system in the interchange area" consist? How will this control existing groundwater levels which serve as recharge to Long Meadow Lake, which abuts the Minnesota Valley Refuge?

Section 6.12.3-Plans of Federal and State Agencies:

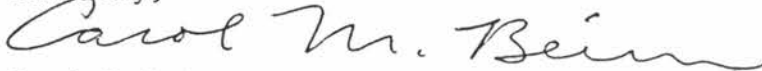
The City of Bloomington should accelerate their review and adoption of shoreland zoning ordinances in order for this proposal to proceed further.

Section 6.5.3-Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species:

Before these proposals advance any further, a "detailed site examination spanning one growing season" should be completed for potential rare, threatened or endangered plants.

Before any actual property adjacent to the Minnesota River Valley bluff is considered for development, a systematic habitat survey should be undertaken to determine the parcel's suitability for species included on the Rare, Threatened or Endangered list. These inventories should be conducted in time for inclusion in the EIS. I would like to emphasize that a portion of the land proposed for development in the Airport South project is proposed for acquisition by the Minnesota Valley Refuge. The fact that the land in Parcel F is designed to be adjoined to the Refuge indicates that it has inherent environmental qualities which make it suitable as habitat for a variety of species. The EIS should include a map indicating the proposed zoning without the Airport South Project, and designate the entire area proposed as the Minnesota Valley Refuge as a "conservation district." We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,



Carol M. Beim
Regional Representative

BCC: Kay Schwie 

Minnesota Valley

Co. Rd 18

AW/RF1

NOV 20 1984

Mr. Vern Genzlinger, P.E.
Chief, Design Division
Hennepin County Department of Transportation
526 Washington Avenue South
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Dear Mr. Genzlinger:

This is in response to your letter of September 12, 1984 regarding an exchange of lands to accommodate the realignment of CSAH 18 through the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Apparently, our refuge field representatives were not aware of the comments by the Office of the Secretary of the Interior regarding the Draft Environmental/Section 4(f) Statement for CSAH 18 when they informally suggested that Parcel No. 115 of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Land Protection Map might be appropriate for exchange for the 4.32 acres currently owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

If you will remember in a letter to Mr. William R. Lake, Division Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation, dated March 28, 1983, Mr. Bruce Blanchard from the Office of the Secretary of the Interior clearly stated that the Department's preference was for Alternative 6 (East Corridor Arterial) since it would have the least adverse effect on Section 4(f) lands. Furthermore, he stated that should the FHWA reject Alternative 6 as a feasible and prudent alternative, we request that additional coordination be undertaken with the FWS before selecting another alternative. He also stated that should Alternative 6 not be selected, additional coordination with the FWS and other appropriate agencies/officials should be undertaken to develop special mitigation measures to assure the compatibility of the CSAH-18 project with the Section 4(f) lands traversed.

We do not believe that the simple replacement of the 4.32 acres of refuge land, including some wetland, by Parcel 115 is a suitable mitigation measure. While it may be true that you only need the 4.32 acres for actual bridge construction, the amount of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land and other wildlife habitat that will be severely impacted is much greater, therefore, we are opposed to the proposal outlined in your letter of September 18, 1984. In addition, we do not believe that the substitution with lands that we will eventually be acquiring as part of our regular refuge acquisition program is a suitable mitigation measure.

As an alternative, lands immediately adjacent to the designated refuge that are not ultimately going to be protected by the refuge program might be more suitable.

As for your request for an easement through Parcels 117 and 47 for bridge maintenance purposes, we believe that can be arranged since the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Master Plan proposes a hiking-cross country skiing trail on that same alignment. We believe that the two purposes can be compatible and could be a cooperative project whereby we would provide access rights to you for the initial construction of the trail and use of the trail for inspection and maintenance of the bridge. The compatibility need is a requirement of any right-of-way granting. You would then grant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the right to use the entire trail from your Old Highway 138 right-of-way to and under the new bridge for public trail purposes and for trail maintenance. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would provide maintenance for the entire length of the trail. We can begin negotiations for granting this easement to you if you make application as per the attached instructions.

We are sorry for the minor false start but believe that if suitable mitigation measures can be agreed upon, there will be little lost time on the project. Please continue working with Mr. Crozier who will coordinate for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Collins
Acting Regional Director

bcc: Minnesota Valley NWR
St. Paul Field Office--ES



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
320 Washington Av. South
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343-8468



935-3381
TTY 935-6433

September 12, 1984

Mr. Harvey Nelson
Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bishop Henry Wipple Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

6(f) PROPERTIES, CSAH 18, CP 6816
FROM FAI-494 TO TH 13 AND TH 101

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Pursuant to the guidelines of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 6(f) property obtained for transportation needs requires replacement in kind of the property impacted. The impacted property which is affected by the CSAH 18 alignment and is under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is shown on the attached layout. The property is north of the Minnesota River and entails 4.32 acres.

Our proposal is to acquire Parcel No. 115, containing 5.32 acres, shown on the attached Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Map, and exchange it for the 4.32 acres required for the CSAH 18 alignment.

It is noteworthy to mention that all property exchanges must meet the approval of all agencies in order to satisfy the Section 6(f) requirements of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

On Friday, August 10, 1984, representatives from Hennepin County met with Edward Crozier and Tom Worthington from your office to discuss this issue. Based on discussions with these people, adoption of land transfer within your jurisdiction requires your approval.

As part of the overall project concept, the removal of the existing Minnesota River Bridge (Bloomington Ferry Bridge) will occur after 1989. The replacement bridge will be built on the future CSAH 18 alignment and will span the entire River Valley. Access to this bridge will be required for annual inspections and periodic maintenance to the substructure units. Therefore, in addition to consideration of the land transfer, Hennepin County requests an easement right through Parcels 115, 117, and 47 for the above stated purposes.

HENNEPIN COUNTY

Harvey Nelson - 2 - September 12, 1984

It is our understanding that an 8' asphalt trail/road exists along the river from the approximate limits of Parcel 115 west to the new CSAH 18 alignment. Perhaps this trail/road could be used for our access.

It is very important that we work collectively to a solution for this concept. You can expect our utmost cooperation.

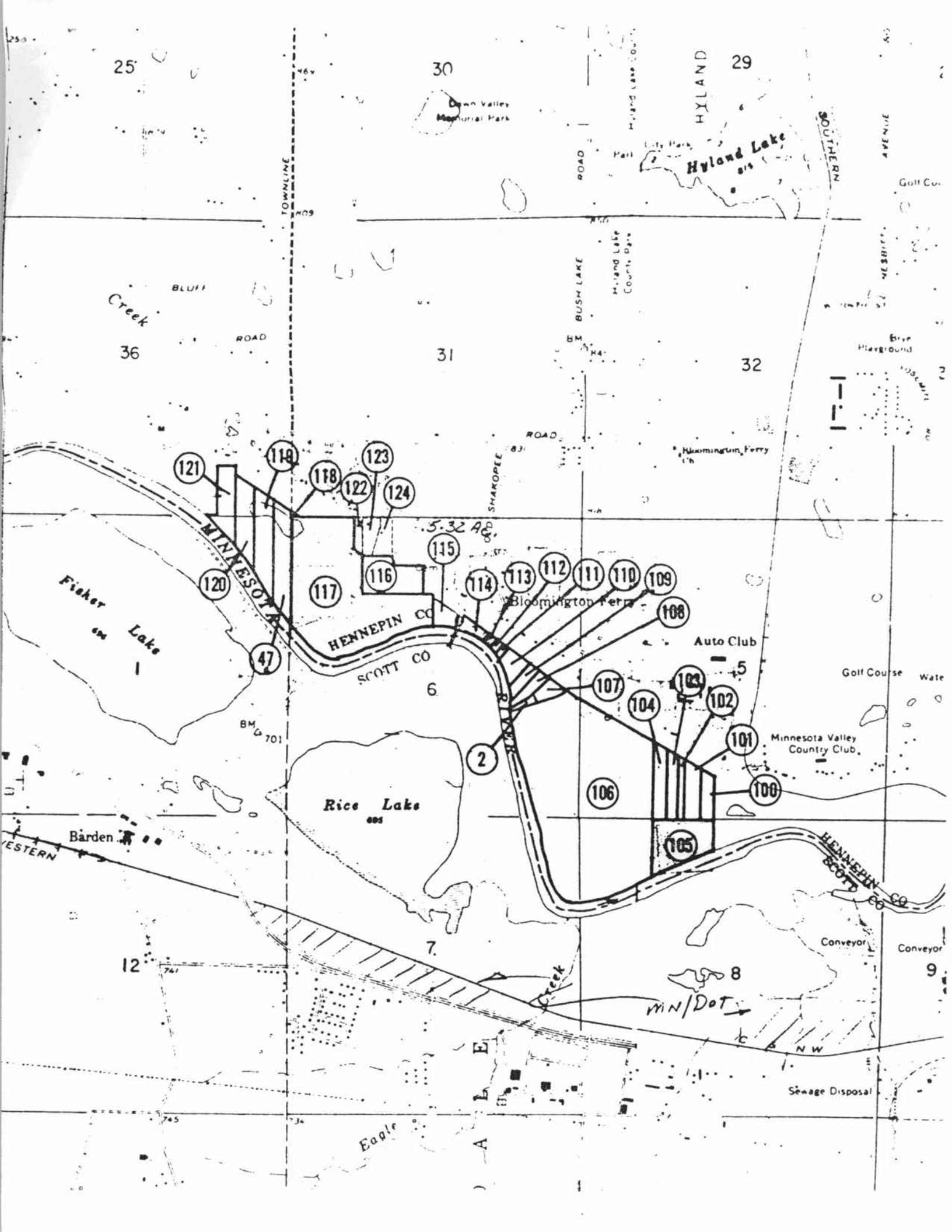
Your expeditious reply to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Vern Genzlinger, P.E.
Chief, Design Division

VG/BP:lar
Attachments

cc: Edward Crozier, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service ✓
Avonell Hagen, Assistant Commissioner for Planning, DNR



ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 2, 1985

Honorable James McClure
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
SD-114
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Jim:

The Interior Appropriation's bill has always been of special interest to me. It is the vehicle for funding several important Minnesota projects: BWCA, Voyageurs National Park and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Despite our budget problems, funding for these programs is particularly critical in FY86. I would like the opportunity to testify before your Subcommittee and outline the projects and their relationship to the people of Minnesota.

I would also request that a representative of Friends of Minnesota Valley be asked to testify in support of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The contact person is Elaine Mellott at 9400 Cedar Avenue #101, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420.

Finally, Kevin Proescholt of the Minnesota Audubon Society has done extensive work on the BWCA program culminating with the publication of After the Shouting Stops. I ask that Kevin be also given the opportunity to share his findings with the Subcommittee. His address is: 2929 4th Avenue South, Suite O, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions please contact me or Judy Erickson of my staff at 44718.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD:jle

*written
statements
only*

*3 single
type pages
prior to
4/15/85*

*Per. Judy
1/22/85*

*on a to
Delano letter*

*Dave testifies
on a new
Feb 26th
meeting
bring John
with
approx 4
4/15/85*

ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT., CHAIRMAN

HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN. JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
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DAVE DURENBERGER, MINN. MAX BAUCUS, MONT.
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JOHN W. YAGO, JR., MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 3, 1985

Elaine Mellott
Friends of Minnesota Valley
9400 Cedar Avenue #101
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420

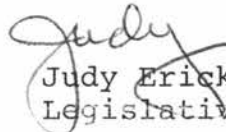
Dear Elaine:

Happy New Year! I enjoyed meeting you in December. Thank you very much for taking the time to show me Minnesota Valley. It is truly a unique place.

Enclosed is the letter the Senator sent to Senator McClure regarding Interior Appropriations. In it you will note he asked that a representative from Minnesota Valley be asked to testify. I don't have a hearing date yet. Also, the new staff director for the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee is Jeff Celik, SD-114, Washington, D.C. 20510. He is the person you should contact to get to come out to tour the valley. If that can't be arranged, then perhaps when Friends of Minnesota Valley folks are out here on other business, a meeting can be set up with Interior staff to show them the film that I saw.

I will be in touch.

Sincerely,


Judy Erickson
Legislative Assistant

*Hand
Conference
call*

GERRY SIKORSKI

6TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

FRESHMAN WHIP

COMMITTEES:

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

414 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-2271

DENNIS McGRANN

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DISTRICT OFFICE:

8535 CENTRAL AVENUE N.E.

BLAINE, MINNESOTA 55434

(612) 780-5801

SHIRLEY BONINE

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

January 11, 1985

Mr. Mike Bosanko
& Ms. Elaine Mellott
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Mr. Bosanko & Ms. Mellott:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the need for an increase in wildlife refuge land acquisition funds for the Minnesota Valley National Refuge. I appreciate that you took the time to inform me of this situation.

You have my assurance I will work with you and the rest of the Minnesota delegation to insure that adequate funds are provided for this worthy project. Thank you again, and please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerry", written over the printed name and title.

GERRY SIKORSKI
Member of Congress

GS:kk

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
FRANCIS J. SULLIVAN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

February 6, 1985

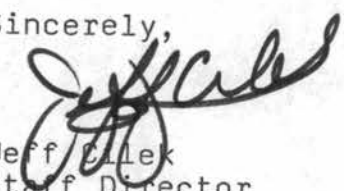
Elaine M. Mellott
Legislative Director
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, MN 55420

Dear Ms. Mellott:

Thank you for your kind invitation to visit the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. I am sure the refuge has many special qualities that I would find impressive. In the future I hope to get out and see as many of the items funded in the Interior Appropriations bill as possible. Unfortunately, due to my other obligations, I do not see an opportunity to come to Minnesota this year. However, if it is okay with you, I will keep your invitation in mind for future years.

Again, thank you for the invitation.

Sincerely,


Jeff Cline
Staff Director
Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

Senator Dave Durenberger

U.S. Senator for Minnesota

Statment by Senator Dave Durenberger
before the
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
February 26, 1985

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am going to be brief this morning as I see you have a full schedule and ask that my full statement be placed in the record.

Minnesota is often associated with eastern states. While it is closer to the Atlantic than Pacific, we are really a western state. We are west of the Mississippi. Originally part of the Louisiana Purchase we were known as the Northwest Territory and eventually became the 32nd state to join the union in 1858.

Historically and culturally we are tied with the west. We had our share of Indian wars. The coming of the railroad did as much for Minnesota as it did for other frontier states in terms of expanding markets and spuring economic development.

The things which brought pioneers west brought them to Minnesota. Fur traders, trappers, timber men, and prairie farmers, those men and women who made America great, found a place in Minnesota.

Mr. Chairman, we really aren't all that different from Idaho. We don't have spectacular mountain ranges or deep, coursing rivers, but we do have many outstanding natural resources of comparable beauty and grace; sparkling glacial lakes, quiet flowing rivers surrounded by fertile farm land and superb waterfowl and wildlife habitat, still forests and wide open plains. One can sing "Home on the Range" in Minnesota and not be out of place.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we do have a strong federal presence in Minnesota in terms of natural resource management, particularly in northern Minnesota. The Chippewa and Superior National Forests are the largest in the Forest Service's eastern region. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is one of the most popular yet complex wilderness areas in the country. Voyageurs National Park is a young park whose potential is yet to be realized.

The federal government is also involved in the management and protection of our three major water ways; the Mississippi River, the St. Croix River and the Minnesota River. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Service manages over 440,000 acres of wildlife refuges around the state and an especially important one in the metropolitan area; the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

To a large extent the funding for this federal presence comes under your jurisdiction in the Interior Appropriations bill. And that is why I am here this morning, to bring to your attention several projects which are particularly important to the people of Minnesota: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (P.L. 94-466 as amended by P.L. 98-327)

First authorized in 1976, Congress last year passed amendments which included a permanent authorization of \$24.9 million for land acquisition and \$9.8 million for the visitor's center, increased the size of the refuge from 9,500 acres to 12,400 acres, and included a provision which will allow local governments to donate lands which are inside the boundaries of the refuge.

Minnesota Valley is a unique and valuable component of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Situated in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge offers extraordinary educational and recreational opportunities not usually available to city dwellers while providing a sanctuary for a large number of migratory waterfowl, fish and other wildlife.

Forming a wildlife buffer between four metropolitan counties and eight suburban communities, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge embodies a new and important concept in federal, state and local government relations, cooperative management of our natural resources. In addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, there are over 17 different units of government involved in the project.

Following the original authorization in 1976, \$6.5 million was appropriated for land acquisition. Since that time, however, funding has been scarce and sporadic. The \$1.6 million which had been appropriated for land acquisition in FY81 was rescinded. Further, no funds were appropriated in FY82, 83 or 85. The \$1 million which was appropriated for FY84 was held pending Congressional passage of H.R. 1723 which reauthorized the Refuge. That money is currently being expended.

With the authorization behind us, we are very eager to move forward and complete the Comprehensive Refuge and Recreation and Management Plan which was approved in 1984. To do this, I am asking the Committee's favorable consideration of my request to include in the Interior Appropriation's bill \$7.5 million for land acquisition.

P.L. 94-466 and P.L. 98-327 also authorizes the construction of a visitor's center. It's location in Bloomington will attract between 500,000 and 750,000 visitors a year, providing a major boost to the tourism industry in the metro area as well as encouraging economic development in adjacent communities. The site of the proposed visitor's center has been the scene of considerable highway improvement work over the past year. That work will soon be completed and the site will have all of the utilities, access road, major landscaping and Interstate Highway Directional signing ready for the visitor center construction.

Everything is ready, Mr. Chairman, for construction to begin. I am requesting that \$600,000 for final planning and site preparation be included in the FY86 Interior Appropriations, and for \$6 million in FY87 for construction of this facility.

These requests are supported by the Minnesota Congressional delegation, Friends of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and the communities of the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

Voyageurs National Park (P.L. 91-966 as amended by P.L. 97-405)

Voyageurs National Park is Minnesota's only national park. It is the only water based park in the United States, with 80,000 acres of its 200,000 acres being water. Lying on the Minnesota-Ontario border, it is an area of spectacular beauty with unique historical significance.

You have been very helpful over the years, Mr. Chairman, in obtaining funds for land acquisition and that aspect of the management plan is almost completed. Out of the \$38.314 million authorized under P.L. 91-966, only \$3.520 remains to be appropriated.

While it is important to continue the land acquisition program until completed, there are two other program areas which are critical to the future of Voyageurs National Park which I would like to bring to your attention this morning.

The first is the condition of the Kettle Falls Hotel, which is operated under a concession agreement with the Park Service. This hotel is an important resource to Voyageurs National Park and to northern Minnesota. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For many years it was a gathering place for loggers and more recently for anglers and tourists.

As you will recall, during consideration of the FY84 Interior Appropriations bill, Senator Boschwitz and I participated in a colloquy with you regarding the Hotel in which you agreed with us that the Park Service should make available funds to complete the repairs on this historic facility. I am including a copy of this colloquy for the record.

Although the planning has been completed, resortation has not begun. We are ready to do that this year. The Park Service has determined that a total of \$3.1 million dollars is needed to do this and has made it a priority for FY86 and FY87 to provide \$1.1 million in FY86 and \$.7 million in FY87 out of the visitor's facility fund. This money has already been made available. But an additional \$1.3 million is necessary to complete the project as a whole. Without the \$1.3 million the project collapses. Therefore, your support and assistance in obtaining a line item of \$1.3 million for the hotel would be greatly appreciated.

Second, P.L. 97-405, in addition to increasing acquisition authority and making a number of boundary adjustments, authorized federal assistance to encourage use of Voyageurs National Park and surrounding region. Voyageurs has been designated by the National Park Service as a pilot project for a new tourism and recreation program. A copy of the Park Service's Final Report, "Tourism Opportunity Analysis for Voyageurs National Park," is included with my testimony. As a result of this report, \$250,000 was authorized under P.L. 97-405 to develop and implement a tourism plan to promote Voyageurs National Park.

Unlike other national park areas it was the clear intent of Congress for the resorts and businesses adjacent to the park to provide goods and services for park visitors. These businesses have suffered greatly in recent years as a result of severely depressed economic conditions in northern Minnesota.

If the current trend continues, we are likely to find ourselves in the unfortunate situation of having to establish expensive park concessions to replace private sector facilities. The recent plant closing by Boise Cascade resulting in lay offs of up to 600 persons make development and promotion of the park, which is currently under-utilized, more critical in terms of bringing about economic growth and stability to the region. A one time appropriation of \$250,000 will go a long way toward achieving this goal.

These requests are supported by the Minnesota Congressional delegation and the State of Minnesota through the Citizen's Council on Voyaguers National Park.

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (P.L. 95-313)

When Congress passed P.L. 95-495, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978, it recognized the federal obligation to provide compensation to the State of Minnesota for the taking of property rights on 69,480 acres of state land which are now included in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The express purpose of this compensation was to "expedite the intensification of resource management...on...lands in Minnesota, outside the wilderness, to offset, to the extent feasible, the reduction in the programmed allowable timber harvest resulting from reclassification of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area." (P.L.95-495, Sec. 6(c)(1)). The provisions of P.L. 95-495 represent a commitment by the federal government to finance \$33 million of the estimated \$56 million in forestry related costs of the wilderness withdrawals on non-federal lands in Minnesota.

I am extremely pleased that the Administration has recognized the importance of their commitment to the State of Minnesota under this act and has included \$3 million for the State Grant Program for FY86.

The funds appropriated to date have been used effectively by the State of Minnesota. The response of the people and the economy has been excellent. The federal investment has spurred a substantial commitment to intensified forest management at the state and local level. We are now in the sixth year of the eleven year commitment to modify the impact of the federal wilderness action on the people and economy of the region.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has estimated the potential benefit of the \$33 million dollar BWCAW expenditure to be \$135 million. That is a benefit to cost ratio of 4.1 to 1, which indicates that the program is an efficient means of providing resource outputs. While the program does not generate direct receipts to the Federal treasury, the DNR estimates that \$44 million dollars in tax revenues will be received by the federal government as a direct result of the economic activity stimulated by the forestry intensification program.

Simply put, Mr. Chairman, the program has been a success! The State of Minnesota has an efficient forestry intensification program, is carrying out its obligations under P.L. 95-495 and is planning to do so in 1986! Included for the Committee's consideration is a copy of the DNR's 1984 accomplishment report and Revised Work Plan.

Mr. Chairman, I am deeply grateful for the support you and the committee have given to this important program to date, and look forward to your continued support this year.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Program (P.L. 95-313) is important to the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota timber community. The President's FY86 budget proposal reduces this program by \$28.9 million dollars from FY85 levels. A decline of this magnitude may cause the elimination of private landowner assistance activities in many states, and certainly have adverse consequences for some 120,000 private forestland owners in Minnesota.

I appreciate this opportunity to discuss with you these important projects. Thank you.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



FEB 26 REC'D

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Steve Robinson, Chief
Office of Legislative Services

Subject: Update of Congressional Activities

Libby Starker for Steve Robinson

ACTION:

On Thursday, February 21, Cong. Breaux introduced H.R. 1202, to authorize FY 1986-1988 appropriations to carry out conservation programs on military reservations and public lands (Sikes Act) and H.R. 1203, the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act. The wetlands bill is almost identical to the House-passed bill of last year, without the Oregon Inlet provisions. Oregon Inlet legislation, S. 362, was introduced by Sen. Helms and Sen. East on January 31, 1985. The bill would authorize the Corps of Engineers to utilize lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior for the purpose of anchoring jetties at Oregon Inlet.

The Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands favorably referred H.R. 99, the American Conservation Corp bill, to the full Committee for further action. The full Committee is expected to consider the bill on February 27.

UPCOMING HEARINGS

*February 27

House Merchant Marine Subcommittee on Fisheries
Chairman, John Breaux
Ranking Minority, Don Young
FWS Budget Hearing
10:00, 1334 Longworth Bldg.
Witness: Robert Jantzen

House Interior Committee
Chairman, Morris Udall
Ranking Minority, Don Young
Markup on H.R. 99, American Conservation Corps bill
9:45, 1324 Longworth Bldg.

February 28

House Interior Subcommittee on Water
Chairman, George Miller
Ranking Minority, Richard Cheney
**Oversight hearing on recommendations of the Garrison Diversion Unit
Commission**
9:30, 1324 Longworth Bldg.
Witness: Assistant Secretary Broadbent

March 5

House Merchant Marine Subcommittee on Fisheries
(Chairman, see 1st page)
Hearing on wetlands legislation and Sikes Act Reauthorization
10:00, 1334 Longworth Bldg.
Witness: Robert Jantzen

March 5

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior
(Subcommittee assignments not finalized)
Hearing on FY 1986 Budget for FWS
2:00, Room SD-138 Dirksen
Witness: to be determined.

March 5,6

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior
Chairman, Sidney Yates
Ranking Minority, Ralph Regula
Hearing on FY 1986 Budget - Resource Management
with outside witnesses: BLM/FWS/NPS/Land and Water Conservation Fund
10:00 and 1:00, Room to be announced
Witnesses: Outside

March 11

House Merchant Marine Subcommittee on Fisheries
(chairman, see 1st page)
Hearing on Nongame Act and refuge reauthorizations (Tensas, Bogue Chitto,
Bon Secour and Tinicum)
Time to be announced, Room 1334 Longworth Bldg.
Witness: Robert Jantzen

*March 14

House Merchant Marine Subcommittee on Fisheries
(Chairman, see 1st page)
Hearing on Endangered Species Act Reauthorization (will include panels on
California sea otter, western water and falcon issues).
Time to be announced, Room 1334 Longworth Bldg.
Witness: Robert Jantzen (panel witnesses to be announced)

March 19

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior
(Subcommittee assignments not finalized)

Hearing on FY 1986 Budget - Land and Water Conservation Fund for all four agencies

2:00, Room SD-138 Dirksen

Witnesses: Not determined.

*March 21

House Merchant Marine Subcommittee on Fisheries

(Chairman, see 1st page)

Hearing on Fishery Conservation and Management Act Reauthorization

10:00, 1334 Longworth Bldg.

* Witness: to be announced (FWS will not testify)

May 7 (tentative)

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior

Chairman, Sidney Yates

Ranking Minority, Ralph Regula

Hearing on FY 1986 Budget - FWS

10:00, Room to be announced

Witness: Not determined.

BRIEFINGS SCHEDULED:

February 25 - Dave Almand briefed Walter Sanders, Legislative Assistant with Cong. John Dingell, on DOI activities related to steel shot.

The Director is planning to meet with all new Members on the Merchant Marine Subcommittee on Fisheries in the near future. Meetings have been scheduled with Cong. John Miller, on February 26 at 9:00; Cong. Gene Chappie on February 28 at 2:00; Cong. Jack Fields on March 12 at 2:30 and Cong. James Saxton on March 13 at 9:30.

On February 26, Friends of Minnesota Valley will make a presentation to Refuge/Realty personnel on the Minnesota Valley NWR at 10:30, room 7000-A. This meeting was scheduled at the request of Senator Durenberger's office.

Staff from Members of the Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington delegations have been invited to briefings on February 28 and March 1 to discuss activities of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. Appropriate staff from the House and Senate Committees have also been invited. The briefings will be conducted by Bob Gilmore, Galen Buterbaugh and Dr. Christopher Servheen, the Service's grizzly bear coordinator.

cc: Dr. Hester, Theresa Pyne, Directorate, Regional Directors

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 21, 1985

RECEIVED

MAR 22 1985

E. MELLOR

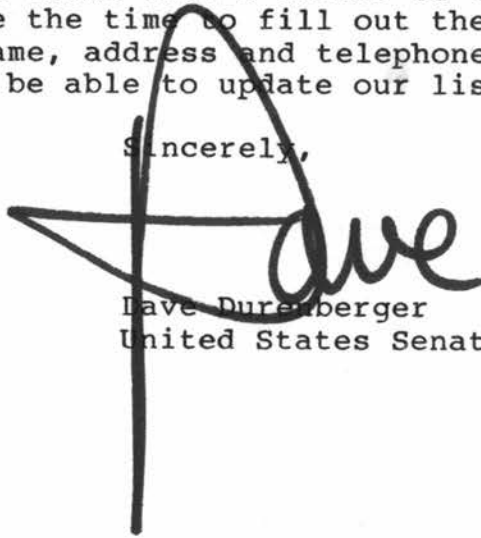
Elaine Mellott
HQN03S
Control Data Corporation
9400 - 34th Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55440

Dear Elaine:

The 99th session of the United States Congress is back in session and back to work. It has taken some time, but it's official, I will be serving on the Environment and Public Works Committee. I look forward to serving on this committee once again to continue the work which was started some time ago. Among the issues to be addressed in this legislative session include Clean Air & Water, Hazardous Waste, Toxic Substances, Safe Drinking Water Act as well as the Endangered Species Act!

I am pleased to announce the addition of Bonnie McCarvel to my Minnesota Staff as a Legislative Assistant for Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. Bonnie is originally from southwestern Minnesota and has a BS Degree from the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining my staff she worked at radio station KNUJ in New Ulm, Minnesota, for nearly five years, and also as an Extension Agent in Brown County for nearly four years. I believe that Bonnie will be able to keep me informed on environmental issues in the state.
@ @na@, a@ go@ t@ou@th@il@a@ names
and addresses, I have found that a number of them are no longer current. Please take the time to fill out the attached card with your complete name, address and telephone number (both home and work) so we will be able to update our list.

Sincerely,


Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD/bkm
Enclosure

FWS capability statement attached



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

(Friends' letter to Ray Arnett attached - 1/30/85)

APR 03 1985

Mr. Michael A. Bosanko
President, Friends of
the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Mr. Bosanko:

Thank you for your letter of January 30, 1985, to former Assistant Secretary Arnett. It has been forwarded to the Fish and Wildlife Service for reply.

The Fiscal Year 1985 appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) totaled \$63,218,000 for specific line itemed acquisitions. With the addition of \$39,112,000 of carryover monies from FY 1984, a total of \$102,330,000 is available. It must be remembered that the Service's FY 1984 budget requested no funding. The \$52,297,000 appropriated was for specific Congressional add-on acquisitions which included only \$1 million for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Service's LWCF budget request for FY 1985 was for \$57.5 million, of which only \$24,971,000 was appropriated as requested for acquisition. An additional \$38,247,000 was again Congressionally mandated for acquisitions but did not include Minnesota Valley NWR.

A reprogramming to Minnesota Valley NWR is doubtful unless an emergency situation exists and funding for another acquisition is unneeded. Any land acquisition reprogramming in excess of \$100,000 requires Appropriations Committees' concurrence.

In regard to the Migratory Bird Conservation Account, none of the FY 1985 funding has been allocated to Federal refuges in Minnesota. However, approximately \$5 million of the estimated \$36,121,000 is allocated for easement and fee purchases of Waterfowl Production Areas in Minnesota.

The FY 1986 Budget was presented to Congress about the same day your letter was postmarked. The budget deficit problem requires priority over additional land acquisition. No new land acquisition is proposed within the Land and Water Conservation Fund authority and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund acquisitions will be limited to those funded by duck stamps and other miscellaneous receipts. Waterfowl Production Area acquisitions in Minnesota will receive about one-half of the amount of funding available in FY 1985.

We appreciate your concerns regarding monies for continued land acquisition at Minnesota Valley NWR. Also, we will take this opportunity to thank you for your fine presentation of the Minnesota Valley NWR at the Department of the Interior.

Sincerely,

Walter D. Stieglitz

Acting Associate Director

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

January 30, 1985

Mr. Ray Arnett
Asst. Secretary, USFWS
Department of Interior
Main Interior Building
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Arnett:

It is my understanding that \$144 million of LAWCON and Duck stamp-generated funds have been allotted for wildlife refuges during fiscal year '85. It is also my understanding that none of this money has been allocated to any federal refuges in Minnesota for FY'85.

It is our request that some of these monies be re-programmed for urgently needed land acquisition at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. In the past six years only approximately \$1 million has been appropriated for acquisition here by the U.S. Congress.

Additionally, we would appreciate your office giving allocation of these monies to this refuge the highest possible priority for FY '86.

I would appreciate learning of your views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Bosanko
President

cc: Judy Erickson
Office of Senator Dave Durenberger

Elaine Mellott
Legislative Coordinator
Friends of the MN. Valley

Sen. Durenberger

correspondence

(inc. Judy Erickson)

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mary Ziegenhagen
Burnsville, Minnesota

Also sent to:

*Rich Healy (Vento), Eileen Baumgartner (Sabo),
Nancy Smith (Oberstar), Dan Meyer (Bozchewitz),
Elizabeth Lulligan (Frenzel).*

April 4, 1985

Judy Erickson
Office of Senator Dave Durenberger
432 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Judy:

Thanks so much for taking the time to meet with Elaine, Shirley and me on February 25th as we "made the rounds" seeking Congressional support for funding the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge for FY 86.

Your input and advice was very helpful. Please keep in touch with Elaine Mellott or me if there are any new developments of which we should be made aware.

Best regards,

Mike Bosanko, President

cc: Elaine Mellott
Legislative Chairperson

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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Elmer L. Andersen
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Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

March 15, 1985

Senator Dave Durenburger
375 Russell
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dave:

Just a note to thank you for your action on behalf of the Minnesota Valley Refuge and for designating a special day in honor of the Refuge. It was exciting to hear you testify and to join you in the Senate Dining Room. I sincerely hope your hard work and thoughtfulness will bear fruit.

Our thoughts are with you as you undertake your work in the areas of security, budget and other national affairs in these difficult times. Do take time for a walk among the cherry blossoms and take care of yourself. We like having you in Washington.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Mellott

cc: Mike Bosanko

eo/1171e

*I also send a thank
you to Judy E.*

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

**Honorary
Board of Directors**

Elmer L. Andersen
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James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mary Ziegenhagen
Burnsville, Minnesota

February 5, 1985,

Senator Dave Durenberger
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dave:

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley is deeply appreciative of your decision to make substantial funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge your No. 1 appropriations priority for federal land acquisition and development in Minnesota for FY '86.

We will continue to keep in close touch with you and your staff as the budget process goes on this winter and spring.

Thanks again.

Best Regards,

Mike Bosanko
President

cc: Judy Erickson
Bonnie McCarvel
Elaine Mellott, Legislative Coordinator

ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 15, 1985

Elaine Mellott
Legislative Coordinator
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

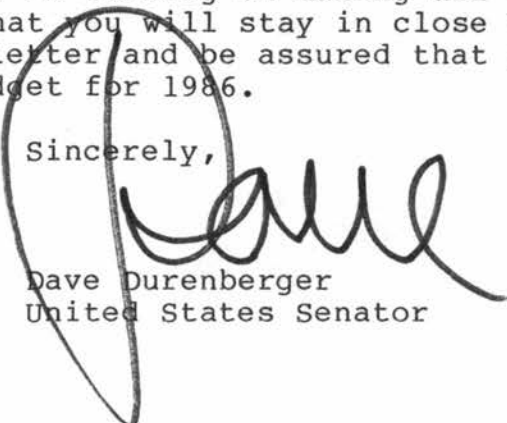
Dear Elaine:

Thank you for your letter of December 10 on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I, too, was disappointed that we were unsuccessful in getting appropriations in the 1985 bill. But this year I intend to make the Valley my highest priority in the Interior Appropriations process.

I hope to testify before the Appropriations Subcommittee. I also hope that you or another representative of Friends of the Valley can come out to Washington to testify at that hearing. I also think it would be effective, if we could get staff from the committee to travel to Minnesota to see the refuge. Finally, I'd like to talk Senator McClure into stopping off for a tour on his way to Idaho sometime.

Judy Erickson of my staff is working on making all of these plans a reality and I know that you will stay in close touch with her. Thanks again for your letter and be assured that I will do my best despite the tight budget for 1986.

Sincerely,



Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD:jpm

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 15, 1985

Mike Bosanko
President
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

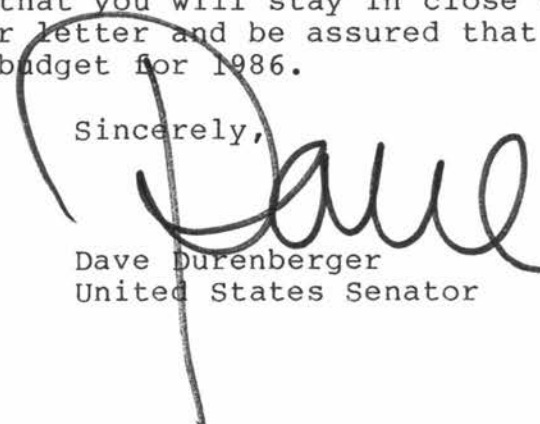
Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter of December 10 on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I, too, was disappointed that we were unsuccessful in getting appropriations in the 1985 bill. But this year I intend to make the Valley my highest priority in the Interior Appropriations process.

I hope to testify before the Appropriations Subcommittee. I also hope that you or another representative of Friends of the Valley can come out to Washington to testify at that hearing. I also think it would be effective, if we could get staff from the committee to travel to Minnesota to see the refuge. Finally, I'd like to talk Senator McClure into stopping off for a tour on his way to Idaho sometime.

Judy Erickson of my staff is working on making all of these plans a reality and I now that you will stay in close touch with her. Thanks again for your letter and be assured that I will do my best despite the tight budget for 1986.

Sincerely,



Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD:jpm

ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 2, 1985

Honorable James McClure
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
SD-114
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Jim:

The Interior Appropriation's bill has always been of special interest to me. It is the vehicle for funding several important Minnesota projects: BWCA, Voyageurs National Park and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

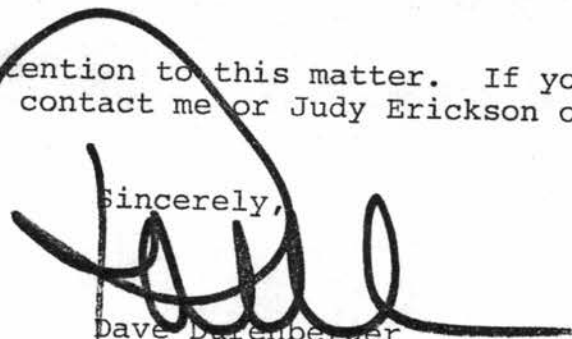
Despite our budget problems, funding for these programs is particularly critical in FY86. I would like the opportunity to testify before your Subcommittee and outline the projects and their relationship to the people of Minnesota.

I would also request that a representative of Friends of Minnesota Valley be asked to testify in support of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The contact person is Elaine Mellott at 9400 Cedar Avenue #101, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420.

Finally, Kevin Proescholt of the Minnesota Audubon Society has done extensive work on the BWCA program culminating with the publication of After the Shouting Stops. I ask that Kevin be also given the opportunity to share his findings with the Subcommittee. His address is: 2929 4th Avenue South, Suite O, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions please contact me or Judy Erickson of my staff at 44718.

Sincerely,


Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD:jle

*Mike
FYI*
*request not approved
and they would us
to show full
2/26/85 after
advising for
Dave that
some day.*

ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VT., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 3, 1985

Elaine Mellott
Friends of Minnesota Valley
9400 Cedar Avenue #101
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420

Dear Elaine:

Happy New Year! I enjoyed meeting you in December. Thank you very much for taking the time to show me Minnesota Valley. It is truly a unique place.

Enclosed is the letter the Senator sent to Senator McClure regarding Interior Appropriations. In it you will note he asked that a representative from Minnesota Valley be asked to testify. I don't have a hearing date yet. Also, the new staff director for the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee is Jeff Celik, SD-114, Washington, D.C. 20510. He is the person you should contact to get to come out to tour the valley. If that can't be arranged, then perhaps when Friends of Minnesota Valley folks are out here on other business, a meeting can be set up with Interior staff to show them the film that I saw.

I will be in touch.

Sincerely,

Judy
Judy Erickson
Legislative Assistant

*Hand
Conference
call*

Senator Dave Durenberger

U.S. Senator for Minnesota

Statment by Senator Dave Durenberger
before the
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
February 26, 1985

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am going to be brief this morning as I see you have a full schedule and ask that my full statement be placed in the record.

Minnesota is often associated with eastern states. While it is closer to the Atlantic than Pacific, we are really a western state. We are west of the Mississippi. Originally part of the Louisiana Purchase we were known as the Northwest Territory and eventually became the 32nd state to join the union in 1858.

Historically and culturally we are tied with the west. We had our share of Indian wars. The coming of the railroad did as much for Minnesota as it did for other frontier states in terms of expanding markets and spuring economic development.

The things which brought pioneers west brought them to Minnesota. Fur traders, trappers, timber men, and prairie farmers, those men and women who made America great, found a place in Minnesota.

Mr. Chairman, we really aren't all that different from Idaho. We don't have spectacular mountain ranges or deep, coursing rivers, but we do have many outstanding natural resources of comparable beauty and grace; sparkling glacial lakes, quiet flowing rivers surrounded by fertile farm land and superb waterfowl and wildlife habitat, still forests and wide open plains. One can sing "Home on the Range" in Minnesota and not be out of place.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we do have a strong federal presence in Minnesota in terms of natural resource management, particularly in northern Minnesota. The Chippewa and Superior National Forests are the largest in the Forest Service's eastern region. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is one of the most popular yet complex wilderness areas in the country. Voyageurs National Park is a young park whose potential is yet to be realized.

The federal government is also involved in the management and protection of our three major water ways; the Mississippi River, the St. Croix River and the Minnesota River. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Service manages over 440,000 acres of wildlife refuges around the state and an especially important one in the metropolitan area; the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

To a large extent the funding for this federal presence comes under your jurisdiction in the Interior Appropriations bill. And that is why I am here this morning, to bring to your attention several projects which are particularly important to the people of Minnesota: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (P.L. 94-466 as amended by P.L. 98-327)

First authorized in 1976, Congress last year passed amendments which included a permanent authorization of \$24.9 million for land acquisition and \$9.8 million for the visitor's center, increased the size of the refuge from 9,500 acres to 12,400 acres, and included a provision which will allow local governments to donate lands which are inside the boundaries of the refuge.

Minnesota Valley is a unique and valuable component of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Situated in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge offers extraordinary educational and recreational opportunities not usually available to city dwellers while providing a sanctuary for a large number of migratory waterfowl, fish and other wildlife.

Forming a wildlife buffer between four metropolitan counties and eight suburban communities, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge embodies a new and important concept in federal, state and local government relations, cooperative management of our natural resources. In addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, there are over 17 different units of government involved in the project.

Following the original authorization in 1976, \$6.5 million was appropriated for land acquisition. Since that time, however, funding has been scarce and sporadic. The \$1.6 million which had been appropriated for land acquisition in FY81 was rescinded. Further, no funds were appropriated in FY82, 83 or 85. The \$1 million which was appropriated for FY84 was held pending Congressional passage of H.R. 1723 which reauthorized the Refuge. That money is currently being expended.

With the authorization behind us, we are very eager to move forward and complete the Comprehensive Refuge and Recreation and Management Plan which was approved in 1984. To do this, I am asking the Committee's favorable consideration of my request to include in the Interior Appropriation's bill \$7.5 million for land acquisition.

P.L. 94-466 and P.L. 98-327 also authorizes the construction of a visitor's center. It's location in Bloomington will attract between 500,000 and 750,000 visitors a year, providing a major boost to the tourism industry in the metro area as well as encouraging economic development in adjacent communities. The site of the proposed visitor's center has been the scene of considerable highway improvement work over the past year. That work will soon be completed and the site will have all of the utilities, access road, major landscaping and Interstate Highway Directional signing ready for the visitor center construction.

Everything is ready, Mr. Chairman, for construction to begin. I am requesting that \$600,000 for final planning and site preparation be included in the FY86 Interior Appropriations, and for \$6 million in FY87 for construction of this facility.

These requests are supported by the Minnesota Congressional delegation, Friends of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and the communities of the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

Voyageurs National Park (P.L. 91-966 as amended by P.L. 97-405)

Voyageurs National Park is Minnesota's only national park. It is the only water based park in the United States, with 80,000 acres of its 200,000 acres being water. Lying on the Minnesota-Ontario border, it is an area of spectacular beauty with unique historical significance.

You have been very helpful over the years, Mr. Chairman, in obtaining funds for land acquisition and that aspect of the management plan is almost completed. Out of the \$38.314 million authorized under P.L. 91-966, only \$3.520 remains to be appropriated.

While it is important to continue the land acquisition program until completed, there are two other program areas which are critical to the future of Voyageurs National Park which I would like to bring to your attention this morning.

The first is the condition of the Kettle Falls Hotel, which is operated under a concession agreement with the Park Service. This hotel is an important resource to Voyageurs National Park and to northern Minnesota. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For many years it was a gathering place for loggers and more recently for anglers and tourists.

As you will recall, during consideration of the FY84 Interior Appropriations bill, Senator Boschwitz and I participated in a colloquy with you regarding the Hotel in which you agreed with us that the Park Service should make available funds to complete the repairs on this historic facility. I am including a copy of this colloquy for the record.

Although the planning has been completed, resortation has not begun. We are ready to do that this year. The Park Service has determined that a total of \$3.1 million dollars is needed to do this and has made it a priority for FY86 and FY87 to provide \$1.1 million in FY86 and \$.7 million in FY87 out of the visitor's facility fund. This money has already been made available. But an additional \$1.3 million is necessary to complete the project as a whole. Without the \$1.3 million the project collapses. Therefore, your support and assistance in obtaining a line item of \$1.3 million for the hotel would be greatly appreciated.

Second, P.L. 97-405, in addition to increasing acquisition authority and making a number of boundary adjustments, authorized federal assistance to encourage use of Voyageurs National Park and surrounding region. Voyageurs has been designated by the National Park Service as a pilot project for a new tourism and recreation program. A copy of the Park Service's Final Report, "Tourism Opportunity Analysis for Voyageurs National Park," is included with my testimony. As a result of this report, \$250,000 was authorized under P.L. 97-405 to develop and implement a tourism plan to promote Voyageurs National Park.

Unlike other national park areas it was the clear intent of Congress for the resorts and businesses adjacent to the park to provide goods and services for park visitors. These businesses have suffered greatly in recent years as a result of severely depressed economic conditions in northern Minnesota.

If the current trend continues, we are likely to find ourselves in the unfortunate situation of having to establish expensive park concessions to replace private sector facilities. The recent plant closing by Boise Cascade resulting in lay offs of up to 600 persons make development and promotion of the park, which is currently under-utilized, more critical in terms of bringing about economic growth and stability to the region. A one time appropriation of \$250,000 will go a long way toward achieving this goal.

These requests are supported by the Minnesota Congressional delegation and the State of Minnesota through the Citizen's Council on Voyaguers National Park.

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (P.L. 95-313)

When Congress passed P.L. 95-495, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978, it recognized the federal obligation to provide compensation to the State of Minnesota for the taking of property rights on 69,480 acres of state land which are now included in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The express purpose of this compensation was to "expedite the intensification of resource management...on...lands in Minnesota, outside the wilderness, to offset, to the extent feasible, the reduction in the programmed allowable timber harvest resulting from reclassification of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area." (P.L.95-495, Sec. 6(c)(1)). The provisions of P.L. 95-495 represent a commitment by the federal government to finance \$33 million of the estimated \$56 million in forestry related costs of the wilderness withdrawals on non-federal lands in Minnesota.

I am extremely pleased that the Administration has recognized the importance of their commitment to the State of Minnesota under this act and has included \$3 million for the State Grant Program for FY86.

The funds appropriated to date have been used effectively by the State of Minnesota. The response of the people and the economy has been excellent. The federal investment has spurred a substantial commitment to intensified forest management at the state and local level. We are now in the sixth year of the eleven year commitment to modify the impact of the federal wilderness action on the people and economy of the region.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has estimated the potential benefit of the \$33 million dollar BWCAW expenditure to be \$135 million. That is a benefit to cost ratio of 4.1 to 1, which indicates that the program is an efficient means of providing resource outputs. While the program does not generate direct receipts to the Federal treasury, the DNR estimates that \$44 million dollars in tax revenues will be received by the federal government as a direct result of the economic activity stimulated by the forestry intensification program.

Simply put, Mr. Chairman, the program has been a success! The State of Minnesota has an efficient forestry intensification program, is carrying out its obligations under P.L. 95-495 and is planning to do so in 1986! Included for the Committee's consideration is a copy of the DNR's 1984 accomplishment report and Revised Work Plan.

Mr. Chairman, I am deeply grateful for the support you and the committee have given to this important program to date, and look forward to your continued support this year.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Program (P.L. 95-313) is important to the State of Minnesota and the Minnesota timber community. The President's FY86 budget proposal reduces this program by \$28.9 million dollars from FY85 levels. A decline of this magnitude may cause the elimination of private landowner assistance activities in many states, and certainly have adverse consequences for some 120,000 private forestland owners in Minnesota.

I appreciate this opportunity to discuss with you these important projects. Thank you.

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

**Honorary
Board of Directors**

Elmer L. Andersen
Roseville, Minnesota

Raymond Black
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Walter Breckenridge
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Forrest A. Carpenter
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Wallace C. Dayton
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Dr. Adela Skipton Elwell
Bemidji, Minnesota

The Honorable Bill Frenzel
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Shirley K. Hunt
Edina, Minnesota

James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mary Ziegenhagen
Burnsville, Minnesota

April 4, 1985

Edward M. Brigham III
Regional Vice-President
National Audubon Society
North Midwest Regional Office
330 City Place
730 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Dear Mr. Brigham:

Kay Schwie forwarded to me copies of your letters to Rep. Sabo and Senator Boschwitz in support of funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge for FY 86.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and members, I want to thank you for taking the time to lend us a hand. Your arguments for funding were cogent, articulate, and right on the mark!

Thanks again.

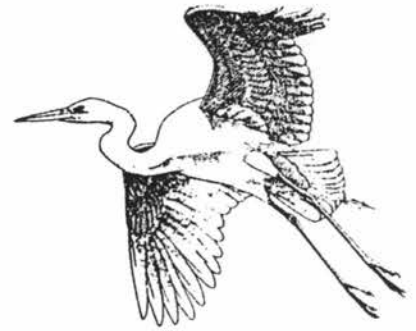
Sincerely,

Michael A. Bosanko
President

cc: Elaine Mellott
Legislative Chairperson

National Audubon Society

NORTH MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
330 CITY PLACE • 730 HENNEPIN AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403 (612) 375-9140



March 19, 1985

Honorable Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boschwitz:

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of the newer federal refuges, having been established in 1976. It is a place where the urban and the wild environments merge - it is an ecotone. As with most ecotones where two communities meet, there are great diversity, excitement and challenges here.

Scores of jet airplanes roar in and out of nearby Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport - and some 250 species of birds (including whistling swans, white pelicans and bald eagles) may be found at the refuge.

Northern States Power Company's Black Dog power plant is in the midst of the refuge and the company leases 1,400 acres to the Fish and Wildlife Service as a limited use sanctuary.

Environmental awareness and education as well as habitat enhancement and wildlife conservation occur at this refuge. People in the area have positive feelings and great pride in this new refuge. Indeed, it has been adopted by our Minnesota River Valley Audubon chapter under National Audubon's Adopt-A-Refuge program.

As in the past, we support funding to complete the acquisition program. This is extremely important for at least two reasons: to permit comprehensive management of the total refuge area and to make possible visitor access and use. In addition, as you realize very well, the price of land in the area is rising and to delay acquisition will only increase the cost to the government and the American taxpayer.

2 - Honorable Rudy Boschwitz March 19, 1985

We also support funding for a top notch visitor center. Because this refuge is so close to a major population center, there is more need than at many refuges for a visitor center in order to carry out interpretive programs so essential to understanding and appreciation, without which wise human use is impossible.

The National Audubon Society has 15 local chapters in Minnesota and some 8,000 members in the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Brigham".

Edward M. Brigham III
Regional Vice President

EMB:cj

cc: Kay Schwie

A large handwritten checkmark is drawn to the right of the "cc: Kay Schwie" line.

National Audubon Society

NORTH MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
330 CITY PLACE • 730 HENNEPIN AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403 (612) 375-9140



March 19, 1985

Honorable Martin Sabo
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Sabo:

Audubon members in this region generally, and in the Twin Cities area particularly, appreciate your strong support of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

As in the past, we support funding to complete the acquisition program. This is extremely important for at least two reasons: to permit comprehensive management of the total refuge area and to make possible visitor access and use. In addition, as you realize very well, the price of land in the area is rising and to delay acquisition will only increase the cost to the government and the American taxpayer.

We also support funding for a top notch visitor center. Because this refuge is so close to a major population center, there is more need than at many refuges for a visitor center in order to carry out interpretive programs so essential to understanding and appreciation, without which wise human use is impossible.

The National Audubon Society has 15 local chapters in Minnesota and some 8,000 members in the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Brigham". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names clearly legible.

Edward M. Brigham III
Regional Vice President

EMB/cj

cc: Kay Schwie ✓

Letters sent by
Hon. Board members in
support of FY'86
funding requests.

(Herbst
Forrest Carpenter
Mary Ziegenhagen)

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

**Honorary
Board of Directors**

Elmer L. Andersen
Roseville, Minnesota

Raymond Black
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Walter Breckenridge
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Forrest A. Carpenter
Prior Lake, Minnesota

Horace F. Chamberlain
LeSueur, Minnesota

Wallace C. Dayton
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Adela Skipton Elwell
Bemidji, Minnesota

The Honorable Bill Frenzel
Washington, D. C.

Robert L. Herbst
Vienna, Virginia

Shirley K. Hunt
Edina, Minnesota

James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mary Ziegenhagen
Burnsville, Minnesota

10 April, 1985

Senator James McClure
Chairman, Interior Sub Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator McClure,

As the former Commissioner of Natural Resources for Minnesota and recently the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks; I have a great interest and concern for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation area.

This refuge, originally authorized in 1976, is an outstanding treasure in the Minneapolis - St. Paul metropolitan area providing a home and breeding ground for a variety of wildlife which lends itself to excellent educational, recreational, and scientific use.

The Administrative Budget for 1986 contains on funding for the refuge. I urge that your committee favorably act on Visitor Center planning and land acquisition funding for 1986 and Visitor Center construction in 1987.

Thanks again, I've always enjoyed my work with you. It was great to see and have a few words with you at the National Wildlife Federation Banquet recently.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Herbst

cc: Senator Boschwitz
Senator Durenburger
Congressman Sabo
Congressman Vento
Congressman Frenzel
Congressman Oberstar
Mike Bosanko, President, Friends of Minnesota Valley

RECEIVED MAY 17 1985

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
 LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONNECTICUT
 JAMES A. MCCLURE, IDAHO
 PAUL LAXALT, NEVADA
 JAKE GARN, UTAH
 THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI
 MARK ANDREWS, NORTH DAKOTA
 JAMES ABDNOR, SOUTH DAKOTA
 ROBERT W. KASTEN, JR., WISCONSIN
 ALFONSE M. D'AMATO, NEW YORK
 MACK MATTINGLY, GEORGIA
 WARREN RUDDMAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
 PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISSISSIPPI
 ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
 WILLIAM PROXMIRE, WISCONSIN
 DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
 ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA
 LAWTON CHILES, FLORIDA
 J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LOUISIANA
 QUENTIN N. BURDICK, NORTH DAKOTA
 PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
 JIM SASSER, TENNESSEE
 DENNIS DECONCINI, ARIZONA
 DALE BUMPERS, ARKANSAS
 FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY
 TOM HARKIN, IOWA

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
 FRANCIS J. SULLIVAN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 16, 1985

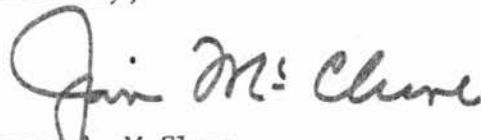
Mr. Robert L. Herbst
 Friends of the Minnesota Valley
 Box 20244
 Bloomington, MN 55420

Dear Mr. Herbst:

Thanks for your kind note urging appropriations for land acquisition and for a visitor facility at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota. I want you to know that if enthusiastic supporters were the only criterion by which to rank our refuges, Minnesota Valley would be at the top of the list. You and so many others have touted its values that it must truly be an outstanding treasure in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

I will look into this project in 1986. Thanks again for your letter and please don't hesitate to let me know if I can help you in any way.

Sincerely,



James A. McClure
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on the Department of
 the Interior and Related Agencies

MANAGER	20
ASST MANAGER	
SENIOR ORP	✓ TCH
ORP	
BIO TECH	
L ARCHITECT	
MAINTENANCE	
PARK TECH	
SECRETARY	
CLERK/TYPIST	✓
BIOLOGISTS	
FILE/LIBRARY	
TOSS	

As discussed
 at the
 Friends mtg

Mary Ziegenhagen

158 BIRNAMWOOD DRIVE • BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA 55337

February 12, 1985

Hon. James Oberstar
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Oberstar:

It is becoming critical that money be appropriate to fulfill the promise made when the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1976.

The land acquisition program is lagging well behind its original schedule which would have completed it two years ago, and \$7.5 million is needed this year in order to get the project back on schedule. An additional \$6 million for a visitor's center would do a lot to enhance local private and other public support for this magnificent urban-area wildlife are.

Please do whatever is necessary to defend the appropriations request for this refuge. I would appreciate hearing from you on the matter.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Z.

**National
Wildlife Refuge
Association**



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16096 Creekwood Road
Prior Lake, MN 55372
(612) 447-5586

Vice-President

Donald V. Gray

Treasurer

Dorothy L. Gray
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April 4, 1985

Mr. Mike Bosanko, President
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
8407 Penn Ave. South
Bloomington, MN 55431

Dear Mike:

I am enclosing copies of letters which I have written, in behalf of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, to Senators McClure, Durenberger and Boschwitz and to Congressman Oberstar. I have felt that the use of our letterhead might add some additional clout to the letters emanating from the Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

I am returning the Friends' stationery as I contemplate no particular use for it.

Incidentally, I have heard informally that Senator McClure recently expressed concern that the President's budget did not include funds for land acquisition and that he intended to "do something about it". I hope that his concern also extends to the Minnesota Valley Refuge!

I trust that these letters will do some good but I am not overly optimistic. The budget crunch is pretty severe.

Sincerely,

Forrest A. Carpenter
President

National Wildlife Refuge Association

Enclosures.

**National
Wildlife Refuge
Association**



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April 4, 1985

Honorable Dave Durenberger
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durenberger:

I believe you are familiar with our organization, which was organized in 1975 for the express purpose of promoting this Nation's great National Wildlife Refuge System.

We greatly appreciate the concern which you have shown in matters affecting the environment and the refuge program and the support which you have given and are continuing to give to the establishment and development of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. We particularly appreciate your recent testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on behalf of the need for continued funding of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

We appreciate, as do you, the need for budgetary restraints if we are to be successful in reducing the tremendous Federal deficit, but it seems most inappropriate at this time to shut-off completely the on-going refuge land acquisition program and to stop the development of the refuge visitor/interpretative center--the eventual focal point for educating the public to the wildlife and recreational values of the Minnesota Valley.

It should be remembered that land acquisition funding derives from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is dedicated to land purchases for National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges and which, under current law, cannot be used for other purposes.

It is important that land acquisition for the Minnesota Valley Refuge be continued in FY 1986 and we recommend that \$7.5 million of LWCF funds be allocated for that purpose. It is also important that \$600,000 be available in FY 1986 for visitor/interpretative center planning so that construction of this facility can go forward in FY 1987.

Again, we appreciate your active involvement in this appropriation process and trust that you, with the support of your colleagues in the Congress, will be successful in getting this badly-needed funding.

Sincerely,

Forrest A. Carpenter
President
National Wildlife Refuge Association

Dedicated to the
preservation and
perpetuation of the
National Wildlife
Refuge System.

**National
Wildlife Refuge
Association**



President

Forrest A. Carpenter
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Donald V. Gray

Treasurer

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16096 Creekwood Road
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April 4, 1985

Honorable Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boschwitz:

I believe you are familiar with our organization, which was organized in 1975 for the express purpose of promoting this Nation's great National Wildlife Refuge System.

We greatly appreciate the concern which you have shown in matters affecting the environment and the refuge program and the support which you have given and are continuing to give to the establishment and development of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

We appreciate, as do you, the need for budgetary restraints if we are to be successful in reducing the tremendous Federal deficit, but it seems most inappropriate at this time to shut-off completely the on-going refuge land acquisition program and to stop the development of the refuge visitor/interpretative center--the eventual focal point for educating the public to the wildlife and recreational values of the Minnesota River Valley.

It should be remembered that land acquisition funding derives from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is dedicated to land purchases for National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges and which, under current law, cannot be used for other purposes.

It is important that land acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge be continued in FY 1986 and we recommend that \$7.5 million of LWCF funds be allocated for that purpose. It is also important that \$600,000 be available in FY 1986 for visitor/interpretative center planning so that construction of this facility can go forward in FY 1987.

We solicit your active involvement in this appropriation process and trust that you, with the active support of your colleagues in the Congress, will be successful in getting this badly-needed funding.

Sincerely,

Forrest A. Carpenter
President
National Wildlife Refuge Association

Dedicated to the
preservation and
perpetuation of the
National Wildlife
Refuge System.

**National
Wildlife Refuge
Association**



President

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Dedicated to the
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perpetuation of the
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Refuge System.

16096 Creekwood Road
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372
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April 4, 1985

Honorable James Oberstar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Oberstar:

I believe you are familiar with our organization, which was organized in 1975 for the express purpose of promoting this Nation's great National Wildlife Refuge System.

We greatly appreciate the concern which you have shown in matters affecting the environment and the refuge program and the support which you have given and are continuing to give to the establishment and development of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

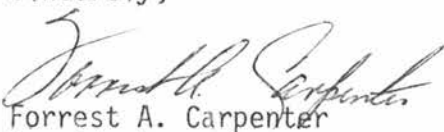
We appreciate, as do you, the need for budgetary restraints if we are to be successful in reducing the tremendous Federal deficit, but it seems most inappropriate at this time to shut-off completely the on-going refuge land acquisition program and to stop the development of the refuge visitor/interpretative center--the eventual focal point of educating the public to the wildlife and recreational values of the Minnesota Valley.

It should be remembered that land acquisition funding derives from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is dedicated to land purchases for National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges and which, under current law, cannot be used for other purposes.

It is important that land acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge be continued in FY 1986 and we recommend that \$7.5 million of LWCF funds be allocated for that purpose. It is also important that \$600,000 be available in FY 1986 for visitor/interpretative center planning so that construction of this facility can go forward in FY 1987.

Again, we appreciate your active involvement in this appropriation process and trust that you, with the active support of your colleagues in the Congress, will be successful in getting this badly-needed funding.

Sincerely,


Forrest A. Carpenter

President
National Wildlife Refuge Association

**National
Wildlife Refuge
Association**



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April 4, 1985

Honorable James A. McClure
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McClure:

I believe you are familiar with our organization, which was established in 1975 for the express purpose of promoting this Nation's great National Wildlife Refuge System.

We appreciate the interest and concern which you have shown in matters affecting the environment and the National Wildlife Refuge program, and trust that this also extends to the support of you and your Subcommittee to the establishment and development of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, a project of national significance with strong public support in the State of Minnesota.

We appreciate, as do you, the need for budgetary restraints if we are to be successful in reducing the tremendous Federal deficit, but it seems most inappropriate at this time to shut-off completely the on-going refuge land acquisition program and to stop the development of the refuge visitor/interpretative center--the eventual focal point for educating the public to the wildlife and recreational values of the Minnesota River Valley.

It is important that land acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge be continued in FY 1986 and we recommend that \$7.5 million of LWCF funds be allocated for this purpose. It is also important that \$600,000 be available in FY 1986 for visitor/interpretative center planning so that construction of this facility can go forward in FY 1987.

We earnestly solicit your support for inclusion of these badly-needed funds in the Interior Department appropriation bill for FY 1986.

Sincerely,


Forrest A. Carpenter

President
National Wildlife Refuge Association



ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

*copy from
Ed Crozier*

APR 23 1985

Mr. Donald L. Groen
President and Chief Operating Officer
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
9801 Dupont Avenue South, Suite 440
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

Dear Mr. Groen:

Thank you for your March 27, 1985, letter concerning FY 1986 funding for construction and acquisition at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

*Hopefully
this can be
made
available
to
the valley*
No project-specific acquisition funds were requested for FY 1986. The administration's budget proposes a three-year moratorium for new acquisitions because a large number of acquisitions have been funded over the past four years and new expenditures could be deferred. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has an estimated \$10,130,000 in carryover funds that will be available to acquire important habitat throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System.

No land acquisition funds were appropriated for Minnesota Valley NWR from FY 1981 through FY 1983. Updating the preacquisition work, such as negotiations, appraisals, title evidence, etc., began during FY 1984. Through FY 1985, \$7,666,000 has been appropriated for acquisition at Minnesota Valley NWR. Landowners, aware that funding is again available, have been contacting the FWS for purchase offers. The willing seller tracts exceed the \$490,000 of FY 1984 carryover for the refuge.

Regarding development of the refuge visitor center, the 1982 Master Plan for the Minnesota Valley NWR proposes siting a visitor center at a location just off a major interchange of the Interstate Highway System, close to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. This site is on existing refuge lands overlooking the river valley. To date, the first phase design of the center, funded by the FWS, has been completed by a private architectural firm. While there are no completed facilities on the site at the present time, interstate highway access and the signs for the center have been completed. In addition, the site has been prepared for construction. Roads and utility lines have been brought to the edge of the FWS property in anticipation of the center's construction.

Senator Durenberger's proposal to add \$600,000 for the planning and design of the center would enable the FWS to contract for the final design and specifications with a private architectural firm. However, this project did not rank high enough in FWS priority to be included in the FY 1986

Refuge Manager, Minnesota Valley NWR

budget request which emphasized public health and safety and dam safety projects. When acquisition is completed, the center's project will rank much higher. In the meantime, project planning and design can be deferred without significant adverse impacts on the wildlife program.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns about funding for the Minnesota Valley NWR.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) Ronald E. Lambertson

Associate Director

Regional Director, Region 3
Refuge Manager, Minnesota Valley NWR



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

APR 23 1985

Mr. Donald L. Groen
President and Chief Operating Officer
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
9801 Dupont Avenue South, Suite 440
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

Dear Mr. Groen:

Thank you for your March 27, 1985, letter concerning FY 1986 funding for construction and acquisition at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

No project-specific acquisition funds were requested for FY 1986. The administration's budget proposes a three-year moratorium for new acquisitions because a large number of acquisitions have been funded over the past four years and new expenditures could be deferred. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has an estimated \$10,130,000 in carryover funds that will be available to acquire important habitat throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System.

No land acquisition funds were appropriated for Minnesota Valley NWR from FY 1981 through FY 1983. Updating the preacquisition work, such as negotiations, appraisals, title evidence, etc., began during FY 1984. Through FY 1985, \$7,666,000 has been appropriated for acquisition at Minnesota Valley NWR. Landowners, aware that funding is again available, have been contacting the FWS for purchase offers. The willing seller tracts exceed the \$490,000 of FY 1984 carryover for the refuge.

Regarding development of the refuge visitor center, the 1982 Master Plan for the Minnesota Valley NWR proposes siting a visitor center at a location just off a major interchange of the Interstate Highway System, close to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. This site is on existing refuge lands overlooking the river valley. To date, the first phase design of the center, funded by the FWS, has been completed by a private architectural firm. While there are no completed facilities on the site at the present time, interstate highway access and the signs for the center have been completed. In addition, the site has been prepared for construction. Roads and utility lines have been brought to the edge of the FWS property in anticipation of the center's construction.

Senator Durenberger's proposal to add \$600,000 for the planning and design of the center would enable the FWS to contract for the final design and specifications with a private architectural firm. However, this project did not rank high enough in FWS priority to be included in the FY 1986

budget request which emphasized public health and safety and dam safety projects. When acquisition is completed, the center's project will rank much higher. In the meantime, project planning and design can be deferred without significant adverse impacts on the wildlife program.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns about funding for the Minnesota Valley NWR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald E. Lamberton".

Associate Director



ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

*Copy from
Ed Crozier*

APR 23 1985

Mr. Donald L. Groen
President and Chief Operating Officer
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
9801 Dupont Avenue South, Suite 440
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

Dear Mr. Groen:

Thank you for your March 27, 1985, letter concerning FY 1986 funding for construction and acquisition at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Hopefully this can be made available to the valley
No project-specific acquisition funds were requested for FY 1986. The Administration's budget proposes a three-year moratorium for new acquisitions because a large number of acquisitions have been funded over the past four years and new expenditures could be deferred. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has an estimated \$10,130,000 in carryover funds that will be available to acquire important habitat throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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Refuge Manager, Minnesota Valley NWR

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We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns about funding for the Minnesota Valley NWR.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) Ronald E. Lambertson

Associate Director

Regional Director, Region 3
Refuge Manager, Minnesota Valley NWR

MARK O. HATFIELD, OREGON, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
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J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
FRANCIS J. SULLIVAN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 24, 1985

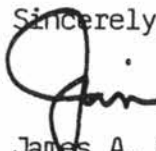
The Honorable Dave Durenberger
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dave:

Enclosed are copies of the capability statements which have been provided to the subcommittee in response to the testimony you presented at our Congressional witness hearing.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



James A. McClure
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Department of
the Interior and Related Agencies

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Agency/Bureau: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Fiscal Year: 1986
 Appropriation: Land Acquisition and State Assistance
 Activity: Federal Refuge Lands
 Proposed Amendment: +\$7,500,000 for the acquisition at Minnesota Valley NWR, Minnesota, using Land and Water Conservation Fund Appropriations

Current Program: The Service utilizes Land and Water Conservation Fund Act appropriations to acquire habitat for the protection of specifically authorized areas, for recovery of endangered species, and for recreation use and wildlife habitat protection on additions to existing refuges. The FY 1985 program totals \$102,330,279 (excluding \$6,000,000 transferred to the Bureau of Land Management for emergency fire costs, but including carryover of \$39,112,297 and appropriations of \$63,218,000). FY 1985 carryover into FY 1986 is estimated at \$10,130,000, as shown on page FWS-190 of the Budget Justification.

Acquisition Status
Minnesota Valley NWR

FY 1977 reprogramming	\$ 75,000
FY 1978	7,800,000
FY 1979	425,000
FY 1980	1,000,000
FY 1980 slippage	-1,000,000
FY 1981 recision	-1,634,000
FY 1984	1,000,000
Total Appropriated	\$7,666,000

	<u>Ownership</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost*</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>
Acquired through FY 1984	65	3,490	\$ 7,176,000	\$2,056
Acquired - lease	1	1,200	--	--
Planned through FY 1985	4	149	490,000	3,289
Planned lease FY 1985	1	1,200	--	--
Remaining- purchase and donation	71	4,795	11,000,000	2,294
- meandered or unpatented	--	1,666	--	--
TOTAL	142	12,500	\$18,666,000	\$1,493

*Includes incidental acquisition costs

Amount Budgeted:

	<u>FY 1985</u>	<u>FY 1986</u>
Acquisition management	\$ 1,470,000	\$1,500,000
Federal Refuge Lands	61,748,000	0
TOTAL	\$63,218,000	\$1,500,000

Feasibility: Public Law 94-466, October 8, 1976, (amended by Public Law 98-327, June 24, 1984), was enacted to preserve the natural resources in that segment of the Minnesota River Valley adjacent to the Twin Cities and its

Minnesota Valley NWR Land acquisition

suburbs, and to make the resources available to the people for wildlife-oriented public use. These goals are to be accomplished through coordinated Federal, State and local government efforts with separate Federal and State management goals stated in the Public Law. Passage of the 1984 amendment increased the Federal acquisition role by approximately 3,000 acres to include acceptance of donations of public or private land.

Through FY 1985, \$7,666,000 of the \$23,300,000 authorized by P.L. 98-327 have been appropriated for acquisition. Through FY 1985, approximately 6,039 acres will have been acquired by purchase and lease. An additional 6,451 acres remain to be acquired (including 2,000 acres of public land and 1,666 acres of meandered, unpatented wetlands) to complete the 12,500-acre refuge.

No project-specific acquisition funds were requested for FY 1986 because of the need to restrain Federal expenditures and reduce the budget deficit. The Service has an estimated \$10,130,000 in carry-over funds that will be available to continue to acquire important wildlife habitat throughout the Refuge System.

Capability: No land acquisition funds were appropriated for this refuge from FY 1981 through FY 1983. Updating the preacquisition work, such as negotiations, appraisals, title evidence, etc., began during FY 1984. Landowners, aware that funding is again available, have been contacting the Service for purchase offers. The willing seller tracts far exceed the \$490,000 of FY 1984 carryover for this refuge.

If additional funds were appropriated in FY 1986, the proposed \$7.5 million for FY 1986 could acquire approximately 3,200 acres.

Outlay Effect: FY 1986 \$7.5 million

Proposed By: Senator Rudy Boschwitz and Senator Dave Durenburger

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Agency/Bureau: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fiscal Year: 1986
Appropriation: Construction and Anadromous Fish
Activity: Wildlife Resources
Proposed Amendment: +\$600,000 for Planning and design of
Wildlife Interpretive and Education
Center on Minnesota Valley National
Wildlife Refuge

Current Program: The 1982 Master Plan for the Minnesota Valley NWR has identified the center site at a location just off a major interchange of the Interstate Highway System, close to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The center would be located on existing refuge lands overlooking the river valley. The first phase design of the center, funded by the Service, has been completed by a private architectural firm. At present, there are no completed facilities on the site; however, interstate highway access and the signs for the center have been completed.

Amount Budgeted:

FY 1985 None
FY 1986 None

Feasibility: If funds were added to FY 1986 Budget for the planning and design of the center, the Service would contract for the final design and specifications with a private architectural firm. The preliminary design, Master plan and EIS have been completed. The site has been prepared for construction and roads and utility lines have been brought to the edge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property in anticipation of the Center's construction. This project did not rank high enough in Service priority to be included in the FY 1986 budget request which emphasized public health and safety and dam safety projects. Several thousand acres remain to be acquired at Minnesota Valley Refuge and this will occur sometime beyond FY 1986. When acquisition is completed, this project will rank much higher. In the meantime, planning and design of this project can be deferred without significant adverse impacts on the wildlife program.

Capability: The proposal to add \$600,000 for the planning and design of the center would enable the Service to finish planning and design work on the proposed facility. Funds would be utilized as follows:

Final Design \$600,000

<u>Planning and Design</u>	(\$000)
Site & facility architectural and engineering design	300
Exhibit design	225
Interior design	20
Administrative and supervision	55
	600

Minnesota Valley MFR

The preliminary design work has been completed. Construction and Occupancy of this facility would result in increased annual maintenance costs of \$60,000.

Outlay Effects:

FY 1986 \$600,000

Proposed by: Senators Boschwitz and Durenburger

MARK O. HATFIELD, OREGON, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONNECTICUT
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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 24, 1985

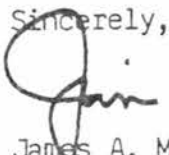
The Honorable Dave Durenberger
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Chairman
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Outlay Effect: FY 1986 \$7.5 million

Proposed By: Senator Rudy Boschwitz and Senator Dave Durenburger

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Agency/Bureau: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fiscal Year: 1986
Appropriation: Construction and Anadromous Fish
Activity: Wildlife Resources
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FY 1985 None
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The preliminary design work has been completed. Construction and Occupancy of this facility would result in increased annual maintenance costs of \$60,000.

Outlay Effects:

FY 1986 \$600,000

Proposed by: Senators Boschwitz and Durenburger

BLOOMINGTON Chamber of Commerce

636-
7920

St Paul -

Pentair Inc

Mr J. Harpole

\$1000 - ?

(W. Highway 36)

Tom W - 854-5900

Ed C. - May 23 -

May 3, 1985

Mr. Michael A. Bosanko
President
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Mike:

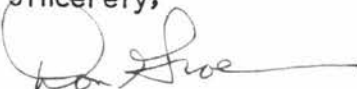
Regarding the Minnesota Valley Refuge area, enclosed you will find a letter from the Department of Interior.

Mike, with the challenges of funding, it is becoming more apparent that we must begin reviewing funding alternatives, especially for the refuge visitor center.

Perhaps sometime you, Ed Crozier, myself and one of my leadership people could sit down to exchange ideas. I would like to suggest we do this in early June.

Please give me a call at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Groen, CCE
President and Chief Operating Officer

DLG:jmk

cc: Ed Crozier
Joyce Underkofler



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

IN REPLY REFER TO:

May 7, 1985

Donald L. Groen
President and Chief Operating Officer
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
9801 Dupont Avenue South Suite 440
Bloomington, MN 55431

Dear Mr. Groen:

Mr. Crozier is presently out of town for a short while but I know he would want to thank you and the Chamber for maintaining a keen interest in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and particularly the future visitor center.

I am certain he would also want to pursue discussing funding alternatives with you and Mike Bosanko, President of the "Friends" organization at your proposed meeting in June.

I will be sure to have Ed get in touch with you upon his return. In the meantime, please let me know if we can be of any help to you.

Sincerely,

Tom C. Worthington
Acting Refuge Manager

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

**Honorary
Board of Directors**

Elmer L. Andersen
Roseville, Minnesota

Raymond Black
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Walter Breckenridge
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Forrest A. Carpenter
Prior Lake, Minnesota

Horace F. Chamberlain
LeSueur, Minnesota

Wallace C. Dayton
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Adela Skipton Elwell
Bemidji, Minnesota

The Honorable Bill Frenzel
Washington, D. C.

Robert L. Herbst
Vienna, Virginia

Shirley K. Hunt
Edina, Minnesota

James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mary Ziegenhagen
Burnsville, Minnesota

April 9, 1985

Donald L. Groen
President and Chief Operating Officer
Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
9801 Dupont Ave. S., Suite 440
Bloomington, MN 55431

Dear Mr. Groen:

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the membership of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, I want to thank you for your strong letters of support for funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge which you sent to Interior Secretary Hodel and Senator Dave Durenberger.

We are most appreciative of the Chamber's past record of support for the refuge, and we value your help today, as Congressional funding to complete the refuge's Master Plan becomes more and more difficult to obtain. We agree with you that this area represents a unique asset for Bloomington, and the entire metropolitan area.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Bosanko
President
Friends of the MN
Valley

MB:kw

BLOOMINGTON *Chamber of Commerce*

March 26, 1985

Senator David Durenberger
U.S. Senate
353 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dave:

I have received a copy of the testimony you presented to the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations on February 26, 1985, regarding funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce appreciates your on-going support for this project.

We know these are difficult times for Congress as it deals with huge budget deficits and numerous projects such as the refuge area. At the same time, we urge you to give priority to this project that protects resources for the future.

We'll look forward to seeing you at the Minnesota Congressional Reception on April 28.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Groen, CCE
President and Chief Operating Officer

DLG:crs

BLOOMINGTON Chamber of Commerce

March 27, 1985

RECEIVED MAR 28 1985

Mr. Donald P. Hodell
U.S. Department of Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Hodell:

RE: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area

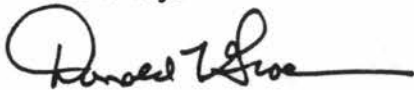
On February, 26, 1985, Dave Durenberger, U.S. Senator for Minnesota, presented you with testimony requesting funding for final planning and site preparation for this wildlife area. Senator Durenberger also requested funding for land acquisition plus the construction of the visitors center.

The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce urges your favorable consideration of Senator Durenberger's request. It is time to aggressively move forward with the completion of this project. [Nearly 10 years have passed since congressional approval was given to this project. The community and region have prepared for the ultimate completion of this refuge area.]

We request that you dedicate the funds necessary to move forward. Each year of waiting results in higher costs for your department. Land costs and construction costs continue to escalate as this area becomes more urbanized.

Your favorable attention will pay benefits in the future.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Groen, CCE
President and Chief Operating Officer

DLG:crs

cc: Senator David Durenberger

RECEIVED MAY 17 1985

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
 LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONNECTICUT
 JAMES A. MCCLURE, IDAHO
 PAUL LAXALT, NEVADA
 JAKE GARN, UTAH
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 TOM HARKIN, IOWA

J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
 FRANCIS J. SULLIVAN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 16, 1985

Mr. Robert L. Herbst
 Friends of the Minnesota Valley
 Box 20244
 Bloomington, MN 55420

Dear Mr. Herbst:

Thanks for your kind note urging appropriations for land acquisition and for a visitor facility at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota. I want you to know that if enthusiastic supporters were the only criterion by which to rank our refuges, Minnesota Valley would be at the top of the list. You and so many others have touted its values that it must truly be an outstanding treasure in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

I will look into this project in 1986. Thanks again for your letter and please don't hesitate to let me know if I can help you in any way.

Sincerely,

Jim McClure

James A. McClure
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on the Department of
 the Interior and Related Agencies

MANAGER	<i>20</i>
ASST MANAGER	
SENIOR ORP	<i>✓</i>
ORP	<i>TCH</i>
BIO TECH	
L ARCHITECT	
MAINTENANCE	
PARK TECH	
SECRETARY	
CLERK / TYPIST	<i>✓</i>
BIOLOGISTS	
FILE / LIBRARY	
TOSS	

As discussed
 at the
 Friends mtg.

*(Sent to all House & Senate members
of the Interior Subcommittees on Appropriations)*

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

**Honorary
Board of Directors**

Elmer L. Andersen
Roseville, Minnesota

Raymond Black
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Walter Breckenridge
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Forrest A. Carpenter
Prior Lake, Minnesota

Horace F. Chamberlain
LeSueur, Minnesota

Wallace C. Dayton
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Adela Skipton Elwell
Bemidji, Minnesota

The Honorable Bill Frenzel
Washington, D. C.

Robert L. Herbst
Vienna, Virginia

Shirley K. Hunt
Edina, Minnesota

James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mary Ziegenhagen
Burnsville, Minnesota

June 1, 1985

Senator Lowell Weicker
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Weicker:

As you and your committee prepare amendments to the Administration's budget proposals for the Interior Department, and particularly for the Fish and Wildlife Service, we hope you will give serious consideration to the funding request our organization is recommending for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

After thorough study we feel that \$7.5 million for land acquisition, and \$6 million for visitor center planning and site preparation will do much to move this refuge on its way toward completion of the master plan. Nearly ten years have passed since Congress established this refuge in 1976. In the past five years only \$1 million has been appropriated. Each year of waiting results in higher land and construction costs as this area becomes more urbanized. As the capability statement from the Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated, willing sellers within the refuge exist, and the appropriation of funds for land acquisition can be immediately put to use. (1,6)

We appreciate the budget constraints with which you must work, but we feel the time has come to include this refuge in your deliberations. This area is a unique natural asset within an urban area of over 2 million people. It seems to us to be time for Congress to carry out the interest of its 1976 legislation establishing this refuge.

Thanking you for your ^{intent} consideration, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Michael A. Bosanko
President
Friends of the MN
Valley

cc: Elaine Mellott
Legislative Coordinator

Friends of the



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Bloomington, MN
55420

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St. Paul, Minnesota

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Burnsville, Minnesota

*(letter to Sabo of 3/28/85
attached)
(also attached: copy of Sabo
testimony of March, '85)*

June 1, 1985

Congressman Martin Sabo
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sabo:

We recently received a copy of your testimony before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior on April 18th, in support of funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. On behalf of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley I want to thank you for your excellent testimony and your continued support of the refuge.

We wholeheartedly agree with you that the refuge is "an invaluable asset" to the Twin Cities and, as you know, we have worked long and hard toward its completion. If there is anything further we can do to assist you in your efforts on behalf of the refuge, please let us know.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Bosanko
President

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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Edina, Minnesota

James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mary Ziegenhagen
Burnsville, Minnesota

March 28, 1985

Congressman Martin Sabo
436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

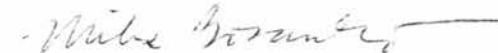
Dear Congressman Sabo:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, I want to thank you for submitting our testimony to the House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations in support of funding for the Refuge. As you know, Senator Durenberger gave testimony before Senator McClure's subcommittee when we were at the Capitol on February 26th.

We know that getting funding for FY 86 for the Refuge will not be easy, but with help from people such as yourself, I feel that some acquisition funds will be appropriated. Of course, planning funds for the Visitor Center are also extremely important, to give the Refuge a focal point for the public.

Thanks again for your strong support.

Best regards,


Mike Bosanko, President

cc: Elaine Mellott
Legislative Chairperson

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY
HOUSE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE, MARCH 1985

(Rep. Martin
Sabo)

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was first authorized in 1976 (P.L. 94-466) with amendments in 1984 (P.L. 98-327) which included:

-- a 12,500 acre refuge and a visitor center to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

--a \$24.9 million authorization for land acquisition.

--\$9.8 million for the visitor center.

--an increase in the size of the refuge from 9,500 acres to 12,400 acres.

Approximately 3500 acres have been acquired to date with about 9000 acres remaining to be protected. Funding has been scarce over the past five years, with only \$1 million being appropriated in 1984.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is unique in that it forms a wildlife buffer between four metropolitan counties and eight suburban communities and provides a large urban population with the opportunity for environmental education and outdoor recreation. Two million people live within a half hour's drive of the refuge.

The Minnesota River valley and its related floodplain supports a large number of wildlife species, especially during the spring and fall when thousands of migrating birds utilize the area. Notable migrants include pelicans, whistling swans and bald eagles. Approximately 150 species of birds nest at the refuge and the river valley marshes provide habitat for 50 different kinds of mammals.

In addition to being valuable wildlife areas these wetlands provide other values to the communities including flood control, water quality maintenance, erosion buffers, and groundwater recharge and stream flow maintenance.

With authorization secured we are now anxious to move forward toward completion of the refuge. We ask that the Committee approve \$7.5 million for land acquisition and \$600,000 for final planning and site preparation for the visitor's center.

BLOOMINGTON Chamber of Commerce

June 4, 1985

Raymond D. Black, Chairman
Metropolitan River Corridors Study Committee
Birch Lake Professional Building, Suite #110
1310 Highway 96
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55110

Dear Mr. Black:

This will acknowledge receipt of your May 24, 1985 Proposed Study Fundings and Recommendations.

The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce is primarily concerned with the portion of your report dealing with the Minnesota River. We are not familiar with the issues that impact on the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers.

We have been working closely with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area to help assist them with their funding needs. With current funding trends from the federal government, the challenge becomes even greater. We will continue to assist them whenever possible.

Your keeping this Chamber informed about your studies is certainly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Groen, CCE
President and Chief Operating Officer

DLG:an

Enc.

cc: Ed Crozier

RECEIVED JUN 6 1985

ROBERT T. STAFFORD, VERMONT, CHAIRMAN

JOHN H. CHAFEE, RHODE ISLAND
ALAN K. SIMPSON, WYOMING
JAMES ABDNOR, SOUTH DAKOTA
STEVE SYMMS, IDAHO
GORDON HUMPHREY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
DAVE DURENBERGER, MINNESOTA

LLOYD BENTSEN, TEXAS
QUENTIN N. BURDICK, NORTH DAKOTA
GARY HART, COLORADO
DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, NEW YORK
GEORGE J. MITCHELL, MAINE
MAX BAUCUS, MONTANA
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY

BAILEY GUARD, STAFF DIRECTOR
LEE O. FULLER, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 5, 1985

Elaine Mellott
9400 Cedar Avenue #101
Bloomington, MN 55420

Dear Elaine,

It was good to talk with you about the Minnesota Valley project. I can see that you are very well informed and are genuinely concerned about what happens to the valley. Visiting with you helped me to better understand what it means to people in the area and the state and of course, the nation. We in Minnesota are very fortunate to have this so close! Now I can see why Senator Durenberger is interested and concerned about this project.

Enclosed, please find a copy of the Metropolitan River Corridors Study Committee Report for your review.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to talk with me about the Minnesota Valley. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Bonnie McCarvel
Legislative Assistant
Natural Resources, Agriculture, Environment
Senator Dave Durenberger

BKM/do
Enclosure

*also respond to
Guh Erilsson
Rm 154 Russell
Senate Office Bldg.*

MARTIN OLAV SABO
5TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
TRANSPORTATION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 19, 1985

ELAINE M.

436 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4755

462 FEDERAL COURTS BUILDING
110 SOUTH 4TH STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401
(612) 349-5110

Mr. Allen Yang
Cedar Cliff South Condominiums
9400 Old Cedar Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Mr. Yang:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding federal funding for the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge and Visitor's Center. I certainly appreciate your interest in this matter.

I have worked hard over the years to secure federal funding for the Bloomington Refuge. Last year we were successful in the House in appropriating \$1.5 million in land acquisition funds for the Refuge and \$600,000 in design funds for the Visitor's Center. However, this money was unfortunately deleted during Senate-House conference.

This year we are again attempting to secure federal funding for the Refuge and Visitor's Center. I recently testified on behalf of the Refuge before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior. For your information, I am enclosing a copy of my testimony.

Again, thank you for your interest in this subject. Be assured that I will continue to work for federal funding of the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge and Visitor's Center.

Sincerely,

Martin O. Sabo
Member of Congress

MOS/ebt
Enclosure

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I want to thank you for this opportunity to appear before you to express my support for the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge.

This refuge was authorized in 1976. Funding for the land acquisition began in 1978 and continued for three years. At this time, about 50% of the 12,500 acres authorized have been purchased or are being managed through a lease purchase agreement. Unfortunately, because of the lack of consistent financial support for the project, land acquisition has occurred in a patchwork pattern. This makes it difficult to perform effective wildlife management and maximize the investment which has already been made. Speculation is beginning to escalate land prices in the area and visitor access and use cannot be promoted until land acquisition is completed.

The Minnesota Wildlife Refuge is an invaluable asset in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. It is composed of a series of floodplain marshes along the main channel of the Minnesota River. The refuge protects the floodplain thereby reducing flood control costs, provides a place where rare plant species and migratory wildlife habitats can be conserved and provides a wonderful educational opportunity for the two million people who live in the Twin Cities Area.

As you know, funds for this project were contained in the 1985 Interior bill which passed the House. Unfortunately, the funding was lost in the House-Senate conference on the bill. At this time, the folks who manage the Refuge estimate that they need \$7.5 million for land acquisition. They also need \$600,000 for planning funds for the Visitor's Center, which is needed in order to provide the interpretive programs essential to understanding the Refuge.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I urge you to provide funding for this refuge in your 1986 bill, so we may renew our efforts to complete this project and realize its' full potential. Thank you.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

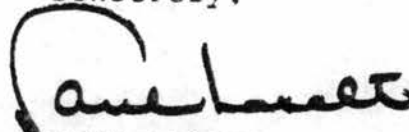
June 12, 1985

Dear Mr. Bosanko:

Thank you for your letter urging funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the fiscal 1986 Interior Appropriations bill. I sincerely appreciate your taking the time to express your feelings on this matter. I assure you that I will keep your interest in mind as this legislation comes before the Senate.

Thank you once again for bringing this matter of concern to my special attention. I appreciate knowing of your interest in this regard.

Sincerely,



PAUL LAXALT
U.S. Senator

PL:kjk

Mr. Michael A. Bosanko, President
Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Post Office Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Same letter to:
Sen Durenberger
Rud Frenzel
" Oberstar
" Vento
" Sabo

July 29, 1985

Senator Rudy Boschwitz
SH-506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boschwitz:

In behalf of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley I seek your support of our funding request of \$7.5 million for land acquisition and \$.6 million for the planning of the Visitor's Center at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

This is something we are all going to be proud to be a part of. It is rich and varied and, best of all, it is literally "just across the street" from half the population of our state.

If you haven't visited it lately I hope you may be able to see where we are so far on your next visit home.

Sincerely,



Horace F. Chamberlain
Honorary Director, Friends of
the Minnesota Valley

HFC:pa

COPY

July 29, 1985

Representative Sidney Yates
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Yates:

In behalf of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley I seek your support of our funding request of \$7.5 million for land acquisition and \$.6 million for the planning of the Visitor's Center at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

This is something we are all going to be proud to be a part of. It is rich and varied and, best of all, it is literally "just across the street" from half the population of our state.

Sincerely,



Horace F. Chamberlain
Honorary Director, Friends of
the Minnesota Valley

HFC:pa

COPY

July 29, 1985

Senator James McClure, Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McClure:

In behalf of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley I seek your support of our funding request of \$7.5 million for land acquisition and \$.6 million for the planning of the Visitor's Center at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

This is something we are all going to be proud to be a part of. It is rich and varied and, best of all, it is literally "just across the street" from half the population of our state.

Sincerely,



Horace F. Chamberlain
Honorary Director, Friends of
the Minnesota Valley

HFC:pa

COPY



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 9, 1985

Joyce Underkofler
8905 River Ridge Circle
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Joyce:

At your last meeting there was a brief discussion about the Board hiring someone on a part-time basis to do support work for the Friends, including some grant application work. Using that as an invitation I am asking that you consider the following proposal.

As you know, Kate Winsor has been working in our office as a Clerk/Typist for nearly a year. She was paid for the first six months by the Minnesota Emergency Employment Development Program (MEED) and then in February of 1985, we hired her as a permanent (10 month/year) GS-3 Clerk/Typist. The intent was to convert her to a full time, 12 month position later in the year. However, before we could accomplish that, the Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office advised us that there will be no funds in Fiscal Year 1986 to pay the extra two months of salary for that position.

In response to the refuge's need and the Friends' need, our proposal is to convert Kate's position to a 32 hour per week position with the remaining eight hours each week being used by Kate as an employee of the Friends or under contract to serve as a staff support person for the Friends and act as the Refuge Volunteer Coordinator. The cost to the Friends would be about 2,000 per year or \$5.50 per hour if she were paid at the same rate as the government is paying her (not including FICA or benefits).

In my estimation both the refuge and the Friends would be getting their money's worth. Kate is a 1984 graduate of Hamline University with a B.A. in Biology and Psychology. She is an outstanding worker, highly personable, very cooperative, smart, quick learner, and someone I am very comfortable with as a refuge representative. To be truthful, we are taking advantage of her talent and her interest to work at the refuge. It won't last forever, but we want to maximize the use of her ability and dedication while we can.

If the Friends would hire or pay Kate for the 8 hours per week, the refuge would like to utilize her for a portion of that time as a volunteer coordinator-- a task that desperately needs some attention. However, since she would be working for the Friends, she could use a majority of that time to do support work for the Board of Directors, such

as the secretarial, bookkeeping, mailings, newsletter preparation, membership work, gift catalog coordination, board meeting arrangements, and with some initial guidance and assistance, grant application preparation. I am confident that Kate has the capability to take on almost anything the Board would need and if she couldn't handle it initially, she would certainly grow into it. I could see her involvement with the Friends growing significantly over time as she has the potential if the opportunity is there.

I realize that this would be a significant expenditure of your funds, but the return would be well worth the investment. The funding of the refuge volunteer coordinator would then be a major contribution of your organization to the refuge and it would seem a very worthwhile project to seek additional funds for in the future. In the first year, I would think that the remaining Pentair dollars could be used for that purpose and be well spent. The Friends could then take additional credit for the refuge volunteer program and use that in your grant applications and membership drive campaigns. Obviously, the refuge staff would be very comfortable with that kind of arrangement too.

Please give this proposal major consideration at your next monthly meeting in August.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Edward S. Crozier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "C".

Edward S. Crozier
Refuge Manager



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 9, 1985

Elaine Mellott
9400 Cedar Avenue #101
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Elaine:

At your last meeting there was a brief discussion about the Board hiring someone on a part-time basis to do support work for the Friends, including some grant application work. Using that as an invitation I am asking that you consider the following proposal.

As you know, Kate Winsor has been working in our office as a Clerk/Typist for nearly a year. She was paid for the first six months by the Minnesota Emergency Employment Development Program (MEED) and then in February of 1985, we hired her as a permanent (10 month/year) GS-3 Clerk/Typist. The intent was to convert her to a full time, 12 month position later in the year. However, before we could accomplish that, the Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office advised us that there will be no funds in Fiscal Year 1986 to pay the extra two months of salary for that position.

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a 1 yr. contract - converted to 32 hrs or eq of 2/28

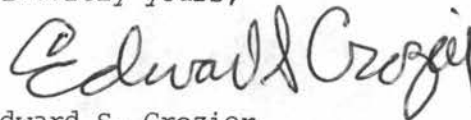
*who pays
job - parameters
files
no benefits
on 8 hrs.*

as the secretarial, bookkeeping, mailings, newsletter preparation, membership work, gift catalog coordination, board meeting arrangements, and with some initial guidance and assistance, grant application preparation. I am confident that Kate has the capability to take on almost anything the Board would need and if she couldn't handle it initially, she would certainly grow into it. I could see her involvement with the Friends growing significantly over time as she has the potential if the opportunity is there.

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Please give this proposal major consideration at your next monthly meeting in August.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Edward S. Crozier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "C".

Edward S. Crozier
Refuge Manager

August 14, 1985

Representative William Frenzel
United States House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Frenzel:

I am requesting your support and the support of the Minnesota congressional delegation in acquiring a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in association with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Minnesota.

There are currently 29 states which have fish, wildlife or combined units (see enclosed map). These units in total have a 50 year history of being at the forefront of fishery and wildlife research and education, including research dealing with migratory waterfowl, Atlantic salmon restoration, endangered species, Pacific salmon and steelhead enhancement, population dynamics of fish and wildlife, predator-prey cycles, habitat evaluation and others. The most recent addition to the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit system was when units were established in Florida (1979), Georgia (1979) and Wyoming (1980)** I believe that there is strong public support and a recognition by Congress of the contributions of the Units.

Although in 1980 Minnesota ranked 4th among the states in fishing license and 8th in hunting license sales, and fish, wildlife and their habitats form the basis of a major recreation and tourism industry in the state, Minnesota does not have a Cooperative Research Unit. This department, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other groups and individuals within the state have a solid record of achievement in fishery or wildlife research, education or management but the vastness of the natural resource in Minnesota and the limited size and funding of the existing groups makes it difficult to accomplish all that should be done. The 1984 Report of the Governor's Citizen Commission to Promote Hunting and Fishing in Minnesota addresses some of the problems and needed work (copy enclosed). I have enclosed a tentative program direction statement for a Cooperative Unit in Minnesota. This statement was developed by faculty in this department and staff in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and provides information on the kinds of problems and the nature of the work we would like the Unit to undertake. The proven effectiveness of the Cooperative Units in facilitating and establishing cooperation among the federal and state resource agencies and universities will provide an appropriate means of accomplishing the needed tasks.

** A Unit was established in West Virginia in 1985.

Finally, the graduate degree programs in fisheries and wildlife and the established research programs in the forefront of fishery and wildlife science make the University of Minnesota Department of Fisheries and Wildlife an ideal location for a Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. We have allocated space for a Unit in a soon to be renovated facility and we are hopeful that with your assistance we will acquire a Unit.

I understand that what is required to establish a Unit is for a member of the Congressional delegation to obtain approval from the chair of the Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee of Appropriations to provide additional funding in the bill for the Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Unit. I believe the total funding needed is \$150,000 to \$200,000 annually. In addition, three staff slots should be specified in the bill.

I strongly urge your favorable consideration and support of this important addition to the University of Minnesota. I would be pleased to meet with you and your staff at any time that is convenient for you.

Thank you for your time, interest and support.

Sincerely,

Ira R. Adelman
Professor and Head

**National
Wildlife Refuge
Association**



President

Forrest A. Carpenter
16096 Creekwood Road
Prior Lake, MN 55372
(612) 447-5586

Vice-President

Donald V. Gray

Treasurer

Dorothy L. Gray
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Winona, MN 55987
(507) 454-5940

Secretary

Lester H. Dundas
4657 Deerwood Drive
Hopkins, MN 55343
(612) 935-7138

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Washington, D.C.

Marcus C. Nelson
4216 Downing Street
Annandale, VA 22003
(703) 256-3566

Alaska

Richard J. Hensel
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Representative At Large

Charles A. Hughlett
61500 Lobo Road
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(303) 249-8717

16096 Creekwood Road
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372
(612) 447-5586

August 22, 1985

Honorable Dave Durenberger
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durenberger:

We are extremely pleased to note that the U. S. House of Representatives has included funds in the F.Y. 1986 Interior Department Appropriations Bill to continue the acquisition of lands for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and to initiate funding for the visitor/interpretive center planned for this refuge.

We are enclosing copy of a letter which we have sent Senator McClure, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, urging that the funding included in the House bill be retained.

We are well aware of the strong support which you have given this project in the past and your efforts are greatly appreciated. We trust that you will be taking whatever means are possible to insure that these funds are included in the Senate mark-up of the appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Forrest A. Carpenter
President
National Wildlife Refuge Association

Enclosure.

cc: Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Refuge Manager, Minnesota Valley NWR

**National
Wildlife Refuge
Association**



President

Forrest A. Carpenter
16096 Creekwood Road
Prior Lake, MN 55372
(612) 447-5586

Vice-President

Donald V. Gray

Treasurer

Dorothy L. Gray
P.O. Box 124
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 454-5940

Secretary

Lester H. Dundas
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Hopkins, MN 55343
(612) 935-7138

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Washington, D.C.

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North Central

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Southeast

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Representative At Large

Charles A. Hughlett
61500 Lobo Road
Montrose, CO 81401
(303) 249-8717

16096 Creekwood Road
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372
(612) 447-5586

August 22, 1985

Honorable Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boschwitz:

We are extremely pleased to note that the U. S. House of Representatives has included funds in the F.Y. 1986 Interior Department Appropriation Bill to continue the acquisition of lands for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and to initiate funding for the visitor/interpretive center planned for the refuge.

We are enclosing copy of a letter which we have sent Senator McClure, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, urging that funding included in the House bill be retained.

We are well aware of the strong support which you have given this project in the past and your efforts are greatly appreciated. We trust that you will be taking whatever means are possible to insure that these funds are included in the Senate mark-up of the appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Forrest A. Carpenter
President
National Wildlife Refuge Association

Enclosure.

cc: Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Refuge Manager, Minnesota Valley NWR

**National
Wildlife Refuge
Association**



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Prior Lake, MN 55372
(612) 447-5586

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16096 Creekwood Road
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372
(612) 447-5586

August 22, 1985

Honorable James A. McClure
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McClure:

We are informed that the U. S. House of Representatives, in its recent approval of the F.Y. 1986 appropriation bill for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies, has included an item of \$600,000 to initiate work on an interpretive center for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota; also an item of \$2 million to continue the acquisition of lands for this National Wildlife Refuge within the confines of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area.

This refuge is rapidly taking shape as a major unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, where emphasis will be placed on making this the model of an outstanding natural resource educational and interpretive center.

It is highly important that funding for this development proceed on schedule and we strongly urge that the funds included in the House bill are retained when it comes up for consideration before your Committee.

Sincerely,

Forrest A. Carpenter
President
National Wildlife Refuge Association

cc: Senator Dave Durenberger
Senator Rudy Boschwitz

August 23, 1985

Senator Rudy Boschwitz
Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sir:

Re: Funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Please consider matching the United States House of Representatives' appropriations of \$2 million for land acquisition and \$600 thousand for the 1986 visitor center work.

This is the kind of project that contributes to the quality of life we all appreciate in Minnesota and want our children to experience in the future.

Sincerely,

Bonnie L. Harper
Bonnie L. Harper
14375 Valley View Rd
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

*Elaine,
I sent the same
to Durenburger.
Hope it helps!
Bonnie*

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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Board of Directors**

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Roseville, Minnesota

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Charles M. Moos
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Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

August 30, 1985

Honorable Dave Durenberger
Room 154
Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

It was good to see you and to be asked to attend your European trip acid rain briefing. I feel your experiences there will help prevent our making the same serious mistakes over the long term in the United States.

Dave, we know the busy time of work on the 1986 budget is upon you. In that context we want you to know that we very much appreciate the extra-ordinary effort you, Judy and Jimmie have put forth to obtain 1986 monies for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge lands and visitor center. We want you to know that we understand the need for budget austerity and would not be disappointed if it were possible for the Senate only to match the House action of \$2 million for land and \$.6 million for visitor center planning. If work on this level is less controversial and the monies attainable you have our full support for a change in strategy from the previous position.

We are very glad to have you represent us in the Senate and you have our interest and support in all of those tough outcomes you are working to achieve. If we can be of further assistance please let us know.

Sincerely,

Elaine Mellott

Elaine M. Mellott

cc: Judy Erickson

2176d

PRAIRIE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
OF OGLE COUNTY
OREGON, ILLINOIS 61061
(Incorporated Not For Profit)

August 27, 1985

Senator Dave Durenburger and Senator Rudy Boschwitz
154 Russell Senate Office Bldg. and House Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dave Durenburger
and Senator Rudy Boschwitz:

Re: FUNDING FOR MINNESOTA
VALLEY

Since the mid-1930's, I have been aware of and involved with conservation matters related to Minnesota, but having much influence, especially on surrounding states. In short, I realize the leadership and inspiration that derives from or originates in Minnesota. These comments are my professional viewpoint.

For several years I have followed the progress of the MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, awaiting completion of land purchases and strengthening of interpretational and educational programs (including the erection of an interpretive center building).

Recently the U.S. House of Representatives approved for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, some \$2 million for land acquisition and \$600 thousand for work on the visitor (interpretive) center. It is important that equivalent U.S. Senate appropriations be obtained. This really why I am writing to you.

Urgent....

By all measures of future projections, areas such as Minnesota Valley and the tremendous amount of natural and cultural diversity they offer will increasingly become more important. Minnesota Valley is one of the real gems of Midwest...A LIVING GEM.

Although I have local areas and concerns here in northern Illinois to keep me more than busy, I am happy to be a member of Friends of the Minnesota Valley and have this opportunity to write a letter of friendship and involvement.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Wade

Douglas E. Wade, President
Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County
R.D. 2
Oregon, Illinois 61061

Copy- Friends of
Minnesota Valley
504 20244
Bloomington, MN 55420



159 Lafond St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

August 28, 1985

Dear Senator,

The house of representatives approved 2 million dollars for land acquisition and 600,000 for 1986 Visitor Center work at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge . While this is not enough to complete the work needed in the refuge, it at least gives a good start. Please use your influence and do what you can to at least obtain equivalent funding from the Senate.

Thank you very much.

Frank Schneider Jr.
Muskie's Inc.
Minn. Sportfishing Congress

*Copy of what I
sent to both*

September 4, 1985

Senator Rudy Boschwitz
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

INCORPORATED

Dear Senator Boschwitz:

We were very glad to hear that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved \$2 million for land acquisition and \$600 thousand for 1986 Visitor Center work for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

We are urging you to push to obtain equivalent appropriations in the Senate.

We feel the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is an extremely important wildlife area--it is home to several federal and state rare, threatened, and endangered species of birds and plants. Also, the Refuge and Visitor Center are important educational, recreational, and cultural resources for human beings who live in and near a major metropolitan area.

Thank you for your consideration. With your support, the plan for a completed Refuge and Visitor Center will become a reality.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Hansen

Paul W. Hansen
Upper Mississippi Regional Representative

Diane Groene

Diane Groene
Upper Mississippi Regional Office Assistant



September 4, 1985

Senator Dave Durenberger
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

INCORPORATED

Dear Senator Durenberger:

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Thank you for your consideration. With your support, the plan for a completed Refuge and Visitor Center will become a reality.

Sincerely,

Paul Hansen

Paul W. Hansen
Upper Mississippi Regional Representative

Diane Groene

Diane Groene
Upper Mississippi Regional Office Assistant

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 4, 1985

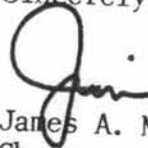
The Honorable Dave Durenberger
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Dave:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the capability statement which has been provided to the subcommittee in response to your request.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



James A. McClure
Chairman

Subcommittee on the Department of
the Interior and Related Agencies

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Agency/Bureau: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Fiscal Year: 1986
 Appropriation: Land Acquisition
 Activity: Land Acquisition
 Subactivity: Federal Refuge Lands
 Proposed Amendment: +\$7,500,000 for the acquisition at Minnesota Valley NWR, Minnesota, using Land and Water Conservation Fund Appropriations

Current Program: The Service utilizes Land and Water Conservation Fund Act appropriations to acquire habitat for the protection of specifically authorized areas, for recovery of endangered species, and for recreation use and wildlife habitat protection on additions to existing refuges. The FY 1985 program totals \$102,330,297 (excluding \$6,000,000 transferred to the Bureau of Land Management for emergency fire costs, but including carryover of \$39,112,297 and appropriations of \$63,218,000). FY 1985 carryover into FY 1986 is estimated at \$10,130,000.

Acquisition Status Minnesota Valley NWR

FY 1977 reprogramming	\$ 75,000
FY 1978	7,800,000
FY 1979	425,000
FY 1980	1,000,000
FY 1980 slippage	-1,000,000
FY 1981 rescission	-1,634,000
FY 1984	1,000,000
Total Appropriated	<u>\$7,666,000</u>

	<u>Ownership</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost*</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>
Acquired through FY 1984	65	3,490	\$ 7,176,000	\$2,056
Acquired - lease	1	1,200	—	—
Planned through FY 1985	4	149	490,000	3,289
Planned lease FY 1985	1	1,200	—	—
Remaining- purchase and donation	71	4,795	11,000,000	2,294
- meandered or unpatented	—	1,666	—	—
TOTAL	<u>142</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>\$18,666,000</u>	<u>\$1,493</u>

*Includes incidental acquisition costs

Amount Budgeted:

	<u>FY 1985</u>	<u>FY 1986</u>
Acquisition management	\$ 1,470,000	\$1,500,000
Federal Refuge Lands	61,748,000	0
TOTAL	<u>\$63,218,000</u>	<u>\$1,500,000</u>

Feasibility: Public Law 94-466, October 8, 1976, (amended by Public Law 98-327, June 24, 1984), was enacted to preserve the natural resources in that segment of the Minnesota River Valley adjacent to the Twin Cities and its

suburbs, and to make the resources available to the people for wildlife-oriented public use. These goals are to be accomplished through coordinated Federal, State and local government efforts with separate Federal and State management goals stated in the Public Law. Passage of the 1984 amendment increased the Federal acquisition authorization by approximately 3,000 acres to include acceptance of donations of public or private land.

The amount included in the budget request is appropriate in light of the need to control Federal spending as a means of reducing the Federal deficit. The funds included in the budget request are to be used to fund acquisition management, to continue planning and acquisition of projects with carryover funding, and to concentrate on alternatives to land acquisition such as exchanges, donations, cooperative agreements, and zoning.

Funding for acquisition at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is lower priority than other projects since the primary purpose of the refuge is to preserve the natural resources in a segment of the Minnesota River Valley adjacent to the Twin Cities in order to make the resources available to the public for wildlife-oriented public use.

Capability: No land acquisition funds were appropriated for this refuge from FY 1981 through FY 1983. Updating the preacquisition work, such as negotiations, appraisals, title evidence, etc., began during FY 1984.

The proposed \$7.5 million for FY 1986 would acquire approximately 3,200 acres. Approximately \$2 million of the proposed \$7.5 million would be used to acquire currently threatened tracts. The remaining \$5.5 million of the proposal could be deferred.

Outlay Effect: FY 1986 \$7.5 million

Proposed By: Senator Dave Durenberger

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 6, 1985

Elaine M. Mellot
Friends of the
Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Elaine:

I appreciated your letter in support of funding for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

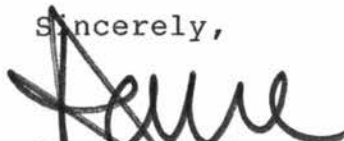
As you so well know, Minnesota Valley is a unique and valuable component of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Funding for this refuge has always been a high priority of mine. Earlier this year I testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies asking for \$7.5 million for land acquisition and \$600,000 for final planning and site preparation for the visitors' center.

I am very encouraged that the House has included \$2 million for land acquisition and the \$600,000 for the visitors' center in this year's Interior Appropriations Bill. You can be sure that I will make every effort to keep this amount intact in the Senate bill. While it would be great to get \$7.5 million or more, we all must do our part in this time of budget austerity.

Minnesota Valley is a special place and my commitment to making the dream a reality remains firm.

Again, it was great to hear from you!

Sincerely,



Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD:jem
Enclosure

Attached is a copy of my testimony on behalf of Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior.



*Thought you
might be interested
in this.*

Jim Oberstar

1985

Member of Congress
Eighth District, Minnesota

Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge -- The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, originally authorized by Congress in 1976, extends from Fort Snelling State Park in the southern suburbs of Minneapolis, upstream to Carver Rapids near Jordan. The Refuge is composed of a series of flood plain marshes along the main channel of the Minnesota River. The valley bluff, lakes and marshes provide habitat for twenty-four species of waterfowl along with 250 other species of birds, in addition to fish and about fifty different kinds of mammals.

While the Refuge is managed primarily to protect and enhance wildlife resources, its location in a metropolitan area increases its value as an educational and recreational area. The visitor's center, to be located in Bloomington, is expected to attract between 500,000 and 750,000 visitors a year, providing a major boost to the tourism industry in the Metro area. Development of the visitor center in the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge has been delayed because none of the \$6 million originally authorized for the center has been appropriated. I request that the Subcommittee approve \$750,000 for design of the visitor center for fiscal 1985 so work can begin on this important part of the Refuge.

The size of the Refuge, as originally authorized, is 9,500 acres. So far some 3,350 acres have been acquired. The Senate very shortly will complete final action on legislation passed by the House reauthorizing land acquisition and increasing Refuge boundaries by 2,900 acres and the authorization level to \$29.5 million to reflect the cost of the additional land. This expansion of the boundaries is in accordance with the master plan completed for the Refuge in 1982 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

Congress has appropriated a total of \$7.7 million for refuge land acquisition since 1976 -- not including \$1.6 million appropriated and later rescinded -- one million was appropriated in fiscal 1984. Refuge management estimates that a minimum of \$3 million is needed for land acquisition in fiscal 85 and I request that the Subcommittee approve this amount.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 10, 1985

Honorable James McClure
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Jim:

As you approach markup of the Senate version of the Interior Appropriation's bill we wanted to take this opportunity to review with you those projects which are funded in the House bill and we would like to see retained in the Senate bill.

We are very pleased to see that the House has included \$2 million for land acquisition and \$600,000 for final planning and site preparation for the visitor's center at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Funding has been sporadic since its first authorization and it is particularly important that funds are included this year.

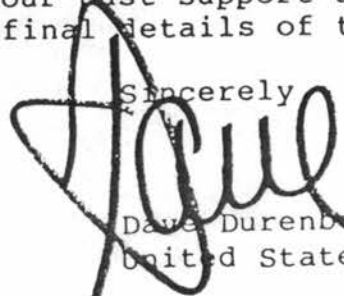
The Kettle Falls Hotel is a second important project which is funded in the House bill. Although the House has provided \$2.1 million for renovation and restoration of this historic hotel, \$.9 million is needed to complete the project. It is our hope that we can take care of this project this year.

The Grand Portage National Monument has been in need of a visitor's center, administrative and maintenance complex for a number of years. Visitor levels have increased with a record number of 46,580 persons this season. The House has provided \$275,000 for this complex. We support retaining this level.

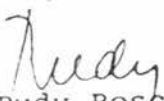
Finally, in report language, the House has allocated \$45,000, out of the Wildlife Resources Division, to expand the guard dog program to Minnesota to determine the suitability of using livestock guarding dogs to protect Minnesota livestock from predation by the threatened eastern timber wolf. This project is a viable non-lethal control method which the farmers in northern Minnesota are ready to embrace.

Jim, we appreciate your past support and look forward to working with you on the final details of this year's bill.

Sincerely



Dave Durenberger
United States Senator


Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senator