



**395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155**

August 29, 2022

Colonel Karl Jansen
Commander
St. Paul District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
180 – 5th Street East, Suite #700
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Re: Support for the Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area Application

Dear Colonel Jansen,

I am writing in support of the non-federal, bi-state Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission's (MRRPC's) application to establish the Northern Grain Belt Port Statistical Area (PSA).

The proposed PSA will consist of four counties in Minnesota and seven counties in Wisconsin. Establishing this PSA will support the vision of Minnesota's State Freight Plan by aiding in consolidating data collection for waterway freight terminal volumes and vessel activities and informing regional multi-modal transportation planning activities.

The Northern Grain Belt PSA has been functioning for over 200-years as a port region but does not have federal recognition like many other significant areas on the inland waterway navigation system. The Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois PSA, the Illinois Waterway Ports and Terminals PSA and the Mid-America Port Commission PSA have been federally recognized in recent years. The Northern Grain Belt PSA recognition will help raise the profile of this area, make it more competitive and serve as a valuable economic development tool for the region.

I support this application and the ongoing collaboration on both sides of the river to identify strategies for boosting economic development through freight movement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Commissioner