



UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

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ABOUT UMRBA

- Regional interstate organization formed in 1981 by the ***Governors of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri***
- ***Facilitate dialogue and cooperative action*** regarding water and related land resource issues on behalf of the five basin states



UMRBA ISSUE AREAS



**Ecosystem
Health**

**Commercial
Navigation**

**Clean
Water**

**Hazardous
Spills**

Flooding

**Aquatic
Nuisance
Species**

NUTRIENT REDUCTION

- **Challenges**
 - Differences in state monitoring programs
 - Data system incompatibilities
 - Spatial gaps
 - Estimating costs of conservation practices
 - Lack of major investment in reduction



UMR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Federal and state investment must be substantially increased and strategically targeted in order to reverse the trends of water quality degradation

Solutions

- Increase federal investment to help states meet their nutrient reduction goals
- Enhance overall coordination and cooperation of resources through a Mississippi River Program Office administered by NRCS and USEPA



UMR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

- Sediment and Nutrient Runoff Reduction
 - Implementing the states' respective nutrient reduction strategies
- Monitoring Network, Modeling, and Research
 - Leverage existing modeling, monitoring, and research in the UMR watershed



ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

- Communication
 - Improve knowledge of water quality status and trends on the UMR among decision makers, water users, and the general public



ONGOING EFFORTS

- Outreach to stakeholder groups
- Developing funding requests for the Act
- Review of legislative text by the UMRBA Board and UMRBA Water Quality Executive Committee



HOW TO BE INVOLVED

- Support the legislation
- Advocate for enactment
- Comment on legislative text



QUESTIONS?

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