

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2024

Captain Andrew Bender
Sector Commander, Upper Mississippi River Sector
1222 Spruce Street
Suite 7.103
St. Louis, MO 63103-2846

Dear Captain Bender,

We strongly urge the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to reconsider its decision to remove 36 Aids to Navigation (ATON) on the Missouri River north of Blencoe, Iowa.

Navigation on the Missouri River is an integral part of moving our inputs, manufactured products, and agricultural goods domestically and worldwide. In recent years, navigation on the Missouri River up to Sioux City, Iowa has increased when conditions allow, and there are projects and developments in progress to increase traffic even more. The Missouri River Waterways Analysis and Management System Review 2021 does not capture this recent increase in economic activity, and the disestablishment of ATONs north of Blencoe would negatively impact the navigability of the river for all users and significantly stunt economic growth in the region.

Attached, please find letters from communities, businesses, and organizations that are concerned about the removal of these navigational aids, as well as information regarding some of the investments and projects in progress for that area of the Missouri River. We would like to highlight one such investment: the new barge terminal project in Sioux City, Iowa. This terminal could be completed as soon as the summer of 2025 and will bolster the already robust manufacturing and agriculture sectors in the area.

Thank you for your prompt time and attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our offices if we can be of assistance. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other critical issues for the Missouri River.

Sincerely,



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress




Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator




Sam Graves
Member of Congress




Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



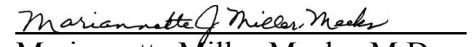
Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator