

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

Dear Captain Bender,

We write today to express our extreme concern over your decision to remove 36 Aids to Navigation (ATONs) on the Missouri River above Blencoe, Iowa. Additionally, we request this decision be revoked based upon ongoing investments in the waterway and the economic potential that the Missouri River above Blencoe provides for our region.

As you know, navigation of our nation's waterways is the foundation of our economy and is one of the key contributors to how the United States became the world's largest economy. Since our founding, the ability to move resources, people, and goods along our rivers has been a vital component in our growth and the Missouri River is no exception. Throughout the last century, the Missouri River has become an instrumental part of our midwestern economy.

If we look towards the future, the Missouri River above Blencoe has seen continued investment in recent years and our local businesses have several planned projects to utilize the river more effectively and increase the amount of vessel traffic transiting the waterway. By removing the ATONs above Blencoe, our businesses will be hindered, several industries that our community relies upon will be stifled, and investment in the area will decrease significantly.

That is why we believe that removing the 36 ATONs would be harmful to our local economy and shut off any potential investments in the future. Businesses that are investing or would look to invest will be dissuaded by this decision. We believe that the Missouri River above Blencoe has vast potential and will be an economic boon in the future. We wanted to outline some recent investments and outlooks that should increase vessel traffic above Blencoe:

- Barge Terminal Project in Sioux City that could bring barge traffic as soon as summer 2025. This will bolster the already robust manufacturing sector in the area. More information can be found in the supplemental documents.
- Over \$469 million is currently being invested from disaster funding and other legislation into the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project on the Missouri River.
- Increased investments in businesses along the Missouri River from the State of Iowa that are meant to boost the economy of western Iowa.

Therefore, the undersigned organizations and businesses request that this decision be revoked and the 36 ATONs remain on the Missouri River above Blencoe.

Sincerely,

Advance Southwest Iowa Corporation
Ag Processing Inc. (AGP)
Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Alex Watters, Sioux City Councilman
Blair Ag LLC
CF Industries
City of Blair, Nebraska
City of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa
City of Sioux City, Iowa
City of South Sioux City, Nebraska
Civil Engineers & Constructors
Coalition to Protect the Missouri River
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce
Dan A. Moore, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Sioux City
Director Debi Durham, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Director Scott Marler, Iowa Department of Transportation
Fremont County Board of Supervisors
Gateway Development Corporation (Washington County, NE)
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce
Guarantee Roofing, Siding, and Insulation Co.,LLC
Harrison County Development Corporation
Heidman Law Firm, P.L.L.C.
Iowa Cattlemen's Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Farm Bureau
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa Soybean Association
Jacob Bossman, Iowa State House Representative District 14
Jebro, Inc.
Knife River
L.G. Everist
Loess Hills Alliance Economic Development Committee
Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association
Missouri River Towing
Monona County Iowa Supervisors
Monona County Iowa Economic Development
NEW Cooperative
Northwest Bank
Port of Blencoe
Pottawattamie County, Iowa Board of Supervisors
Responsible River Management
Robert E. Scott, Mayor of Sioux City
RP Constructors

Sioux City Compressed Steel
Siouxland Chamber of Commerce
Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)
State Steel Supply Company
The Siouxland Initiative
Upper Mississippi, Illinois & Missouri Rivers Association (UMIMRA)
Washington County, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce
Wells Enterprises, Inc.
Western Iowa Tech Community College
Woodbury County Board of Supervisors