

Michael Stottler

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To Whom It May Concern,

As a professional landscape architect, I have been interested in the Mississippi River Gorge and Area C for quite a few years. My bachelor's thesis at North Dakota State University in 2014 was focused on the potential lock and dam removals, and restoration of the Gorge with a strong focus on recreation. Through my Natural Resources Management minor coursework and formal training in Geomorphology and river systems, I feel that I fully understand the potential impacts that the contamination at Area C threatens.

I understand that the study of alternatives for Area C should, and did, evaluate a full range of actions or nonactions. I also understand that no matter what we as a human society do or do not do, nature will take its course without our input. As climate change has shown in recent years, the natural river systems which have been studied by hydrologists, engineers, geologists, and many others are changing at a rapid and unpredictable pace. While flooding events of the past century or so may not have threatened the contaminated portion of the site, that does not mean that future events will also leave this place untouched.

Area C is fully within the Mississippi River Gorge, an area carved by the power of the Mississippi River in the past, present, and will continue to be carved well into the future. In my professional opinion, I fully believe that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare to pursue Alternative 6 - Removal of All Wastes and Site Restoration.

If Area C is not fully and undoubtedly cleaned of all contamination and debris, then it will never truly stop being a threat to the future cleanliness of our water. Any other, lesser alternative will essentially create a piece of infrastructure to seal the contaminants. As any civil engineer across the country will tell you, all infrastructure will always require maintenance, monitoring, evaluation, and, eventually, repair. All other alternatives besides #6 will only push the full responsibility of cleanup to future generations, who will most certainly be disappointed in such decisions.

Ford Motor Company, as shown through the beautiful Arjay Miller Michigan Arboretum at their headquarters in Michigan, is fully capable of progressive, responsible actions and development projects which fully consider the health of natural systems. I would ask that they take that same spirit they have shown at their headquarters and apply it to Area C, to show the residents of Minnesota that corporate responsibility and ethics are alive and well, and that Ford is the type of American company we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

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