From: RENEE VANDLIK
To: DNR ESTABROOK
Subject: DNR Must Consider Removing the Estabrook Dam
Date: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 5:50:23 PM

Kristina Betzold,

Dear Leaders of the Wisconsin DNR,
I understand that you are currently considering only repair or maintenance of the current dam structure, however I believe a full environmental assessment of the effects for its removal must also be considered. I am writing to express my support for the complete removal of the Estabrook Dam.

As a neighboring resident, we often walk the shoreline and are in awe of the birds and other wildlife within this portion of the Milwaukee River corridor. With a free flowing, natural habitat restored, I wonder what other birds or wildlife might be attracted to this refuge. Beyond the corridor itself, the waterway is home to a variety of fish. Eliminating artificial barriers, i would think, would encourage more spawning. I believe it is your responsibility to study these potential benefits.

Not only does this study of removing the dam seem ecologically prudent, I also believe it would be fiscally prudent. I unfortunately see very little economic value in the dam's restoration, just a large drain of the state's and county's financial resources.

In conversations with my former County Supervisor Jerry Broderick, I've learned the vast majority of his constituents have expressed similar thoughts. This majority has been obstructed by County budget maneuvers and agendas that have been altered at the last minute.

I urge you to consider complete removal of the Estabrook Dam. Removing it would:
1) improve water quality in the Milwaukee River and Milwaukee Estuary,
2) improve fish passage and therefore recreational fishing opportunities,
3) reduce flood and safety risk, and
4) save Milwaukee County residents at least more than $4 million over the next 20 years.

Thank you,
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