From: Josh Radlein
To: DNR ESTABROOK
Subject: DNR Must Consider Removing the Estabrook Dam
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2016 8:36:02 PM

Department of Natural Resources Kristina Betzold,

I'm writing to ask that you conduct a comprehensive review of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of ALL alternatives considered by the County and that you recommend removing the Estabrook Dam located on the Milwaukee River in Glendale.

Due to the large amount of state and federal funds likely to be spent on Estabrook Dam, the DNR cannot only consider the County's preferred alternative of dam repair and associated operational scenarios when conducting an EIS. The Estabrook Dam currently degrades the health of the Milwaukee River, impedes fish movement, increases flood risk for homeowners who live upstream of the dam, and poses a risk to public safety and will continue to do so to an even greater extent if repaired. The County has a failed history of properly maintaining and operating this dam, and the stakes get higher as the dam continues to age and degrade.

Without considering dam removal as a viable alternative, the DNR is not doing their duty to protect our natural resources and make informed management decisions that best protect the environment and the community.

Removing the Estabrook Dam 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.

I would like to share with my children and my grandchildren the river that I have come to know and love, and not have it trapped more by the select and greedy few who will benefit from the total taxpayers in the county. This is a very dangerous decision and could led to further damming of the river for selective purposes. That is a complete step backwards in improving water quality for ALL Milwaukee residents, and the flora and fauna that depends upon the river for their lives.

Thank you,
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