From: Chris Kocovsky
To: DNR ESTABROOK
Subject: DNR Must Consider Removing the Estabrook Dam
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 1:25:57 PM

Department of Natural Resources Kristina Betzold,

Ma'am,
I am writing to express my opinion that the dam at Estabrook park be removed. The health of the river and its associated ecosystems must be held in higher regard than selfish human desires. As a biologist, you must use the empirical data and accept the hypothesis that it supports. Salmonid spawning runs are greatly prohibited bt the dam, and the resultant lack of natural fecundity will add to the future costs of repairing the dam, maintaining it, and continuing the artificial reproduction methods to sustain healthy trout and salmon populations. Removal is cost effective and ecologically sound.

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.

Thank you,

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