



666 High Street, Suite 200-B  
Worthington, OH 43085

PHONE: 614.565.8319  
EMAIL: [jlampert@americanwaterways.com](mailto:jlampert@americanwaterways.com)

Justin L. Lampert  
Director – Midcontinent Office

January 22, 2025

Mr. Lewis Wiechmann  
District Engineer  
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers  
Regional Planning and Environment Division North  
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Re: Lock 10 Mooring Facilities  
Draft Supplemental  
Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Wiechmann:

The American Waterways Operators (AWO) is the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry's advocate, resource, and united voice for safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation on America's waterways, oceans, and coasts. Our industry is the largest segment of the nation's domestic maritime fleet, supporting over 270,000 jobs and moving 665 million tons of cargo each year safely and efficiently.

On behalf of AWO's more than 300 member companies, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Lock 10 Mooring Facilities Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment.

The Mississippi River is a vital part of the U.S. inland waterway transportation system supporting the movement of billions of dollars of vital commodities. In Iowa alone, the domestic maritime industry contributes over 3,000 jobs and more than \$800 million annually to the state economy while emitting a fraction of greenhouse gas emissions compared to other modes of freight transportation.

Safe navigation is essential to maintaining this robust inland waterway system. The proposed mooring cell upstream of Lock 10 is an illustrative example of the infrastructure towing vessel operators could utilize to improve navigation safety. As acknowledged by the Corps, vessels today must maintain engine power or run partially aground while waiting for passage through the lock. The construction of this mooring facility would allow vessels to tie off while waiting for passage, enhancing navigation safety and reducing environmental impacts. It will also streamline the lockage process and improve the efficiency of this integral system. For these

reasons, AWO supports the Corps' Preferred Alternative to construct a mooring cell upstream of Lock 10 on the Mississippi River.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. AWO would be happy to provide additional comments or further information as needed.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Lampert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin Lampert  
Director – Midcontinent Office