



May 18, 2016

Mayor Coleman and Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: Adopting official City comments on the proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Rules.

Dear Mayor Coleman and Members of the Council,

The Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota is a statewide, non-profit organization that exists to acquire, protect, and enhance critical land for the public's use and benefit. Thanks to our 3,400 members and 60-year history, we have acquired nearly 11,000 acres that have been added to Minnesota's parks and trails.

We were recently made aware that the City is considering adopting official comments on the proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Rules. As an organization that has acquired and protected land along the Mississippi in and near Saint Paul – including key parcels of Fort Snelling State Park and Harriet Island Regional Park – we are concerned that the City's comments, as drafted, send the wrong message and could potentially alter Saint Paul's treasured river corridor. Most specifically we are concerned your comments on increased building heights and Saint Paul River bluff development are counter to existing City policy and a contradiction to MRCCA principles. For 40 years the existing MRCCA protections have helped create the Mississippi River – and the world-class urban park system known at the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area – that we know and love today. Saint Paul has long been a leader in this regard, having adopted plans and ordinances that enhance the protection of, and public access to, the Mississippi River. It is important that the City's official comments on the proposed MRCCA rules reflect this legacy of environmental protection and equitable access to the river.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide written comments. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Feldman".

Brett Feldman
Executive Director

