



Majority Leader Erin Murphy
District 64

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February 13, 2026

Commissioner Kessler,

We are writing to share concerns regarding the MPCA's proposed next steps for Area C, the hazardous waste dumpsite on the Mississippi River floodplain.

As you know, this is a critically-important site, wedged between a flourishing redevelopment (soon home to thousands of people) and one of the world's great rivers. Especially given its location on the Mississippi floodplain, a decision made regarding the site today will have an impact decades, or even centuries, into the future.

Given the site's importance, together we have reviewed the "Focused Feasibility Study for Area C," and had dozens of helpful conversations with MPCA staff, community members, experts, other elected officials, and advocates.

The MPCA proposes only a partial cleanup of the site ("removal of accessible waste and site stabilization"). We are concerned that under this proposal, the material left in place on the floodplain would continue to contaminate surface water and groundwater, ultimately reaching the Mississippi River. We are also concerned that the remaining waste pile could impact the nearby residential development (including its potential for affordable housing), damage habitat value, and detract from the scenic beauty of the river.

More broadly, it is essential to us that a decision on Area C take the long view. Put simply, materials of the type buried at this site should not be in the floodplain of – and only feet from – the Mississippi River. If these materials are not removed now, future generations will be forced to deal with them. This would not be a responsible approach. For all of these reasons, we support a full cleanup of Area C.

Again, we are grateful to MPCA staff for their time and hard work balancing many difficult considerations. And we are grateful for your thoughtful and values-driven leadership. As you finalize your decision regarding this project, we encourage you to listen closely both to our community and to the needs of coming generations. All the best to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erin Murphy".

Senator Erin Murphy
Senate District 64

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Pinto".

Representative Dave Pinto
House District 64B