

# MMAC

Metropolitan Milwaukee  
Association of Commerce

May 30, 2019

State Representative Todd Novak  
Chair, Task Force on Water Quality  
310 North, State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Dear Chair Novak and Members of the Task Force on Water Quality:

The Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce would like to enter for the record its experience in assessing the operational track record and outcomes of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewerage District (MMSD) for the purposes of water quality and economic development.

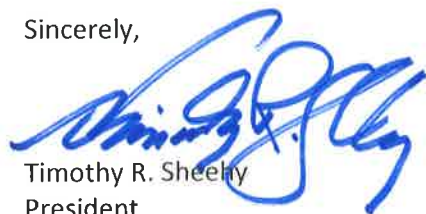
One of Metropolitan Milwaukee's best-selling points is freshwater. It is apparent in the value of our lakefront and river system to both employers and to the talent recruited to help them stay competitive. The MMAC membership views MMSD as both a good steward of water quality for the region, and a significant infrastructure asset for economic development.

As an organization that lobbied for the construction of the deep tunnel system, we can say hands down, it was an investment that paid dividends and continues to do so. In the years prior to 1993 when the Deep Tunnel went on line, the region experienced 50-60 sewage overflows per year. Since then the number is in the 2-3 a year range, with volumes dropping from 8-9 billion gallons annually to approximately 1 billion during the same period. While no one is dismissing a billion gallons of overflow, the \$1B investment in the Deep Tunnel was made to eliminate 97-98% of the overflow incidents, it has done so. To eliminate 100% of all possible events, it was estimated to double this cost. That decision is now history, and MMSD has done a commendable job managing the size of the "bathtub" they have to contain overflows. In fact, the EPA goal of capturing and cleaning 85% of wastewater for systems like MMSD is exceeded by MMSD's performance of 98.4% since 1994.

In addition to the quality of the water treatment, is the cost of operation. In the most recent study MMAC funded, conducted by Brown and Caldwell, MMSD ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest cost of 16 comparable metro's for large process water industrial customers. It is the combination of quality and cost that mark MMSD as an economic development asset for employers in the greater Milwaukee area. We actively tout our water and wastewater systems when we pitch corporate attraction and expansion opportunities.

Thank you for the work of the Task Force, and for the opportunity to share our experience in evaluating Milwaukee's investment in clean water, and its operational excellence through MMSD.

Sincerely,



Timothy R. Sheehy  
President

cc: Members of the Task Force on Water Quality