

CHAMBER



Fargo Moorhead

June 26, 2003

Dr. Maryanne Bach, Director
Great Plains Region
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
316 26th Street North
Billings, Montana 59101

Dave Koland, Manager
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
PO Box 140
Carrington, North Dakota 58421

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Chamber of Commerce
of Fargo Moorhead

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Dear Dr. Bach and Mr. Koland:

The Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead is a bi-state, regional federation of 1,700 private, public and nonprofit sector firms that collectively employ more than 62,000 people in our region. Our mission is unifying and advancing business and community interests in our region.

This letter is written to thank your agencies for your cooperative involvement in the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, and for your cooperative planning and sponsorship of four RRVWSP public meetings this month, including one that was held last night in Fargo.

As you know, water continues to be a vital resource for residents, businesses and communities in both our region and the entire nation. It nourishes our bodies, irrigates our fields, powers our communities and supports our commerce. Without water, life itself would be impossible.

As industry grows, population expands and commerce continues in eastern North Dakota and throughout the Red River Valley, the need for a dependable water supply will continue to increase. At the same time, water management and flood mitigation continue to be vital factors for everyone across the Red River Valley.

Our Chamber supported passage of the Dakota Water Resources Act, supports an outlet or other appropriate solution to the problems being experienced at Devils Lake and supports nationally-uniform, science-based and cost-effective water quality standards that balance environmental protection and the needs of communities and industry. We also support completion of Garrison Diversion or a similar project representing a long-standing federal commitment to our region.

Thanks again for your agency's efforts on behalf of water supply issues in the Red River Valley.

Sincerely,

David K. Martin
Public Affairs Director

P.S. You have specifically added Breckenridge, East Grand Forks and Moorhead by name to the study/impact area. Dilworth is also part of our four-city, bi-state metropolitan community. May I suggest that you add Dilworth to your list, too?

pc: Dakotas Area Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mayors of Fargo and West Fargo, ND and Moorhead and Dilworth, MN
Thomas Lane and Pat Zavoral, City of Fargo
Lauri Winterfeldt-Shanks and Cliff McLain, City of Moorhead
Mark Nisbet, Xcel Energy and Bill Schwandt, Moorhead Public Service

