



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

June 29, 2007

Dr. Holly Stallworth
US EPA
Science Advisory Board (1400F)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Dr. Stallworth:

The Hypoxia Task Force (Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force) state agencies of the Upper Mississippi River Subbasin Hypoxia Nutrient Committee (UMRSHNC) representing Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin are asking through UMRSHNC by this letter that the comment period for the draft report(s) of the SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel be extended by an additional thirty (30) days beyond SAB's reported schedule for the current and subsequent drafts.

The May 24, 2007 draft report has many inconsistencies as well as science representations which are felt by many to be incorrect. The purpose of this time extension request is to afford additional review of the May 24 and subsequent report drafts by other scientists from land-grant universities and other technical organizations and agencies, and science advisors of the many stakeholders who will be affected by the report and policy decisions based upon it.

It is critically important for SAB processes and timelines to allow meaningful input by all who could be affected by the outcome of this effort.

On behalf of the Hypoxia Task Force agencies of UMRSHNC, thank you for bringing this request to the attention of the Hypoxia Advisory Panel and the Science Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lemke".

Dean W. Lemke, P.E.
Facilitator, Upper Mississippi River Subbasin Hypoxia Nutrient Committee (UMRSHNC)

DWL

c.c.: Darrell Brown, EPA OWOW