

Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals

*An independent association of current or former resource or conservation professionals
Whose mission is to promote science-based stewardship of natural resources, including air, water, land,
native plants, fish, and wildlife and supporting aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems*

October 16, 2010

Robert H. Bruininks, President
202 Morrill Hall
100 Church Street S.E.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear President Bruininks:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals (MNACP) concerning the film "Troubled Waters." Our Board discussed the events leading up to the public airing of this film at a recent meeting, and made a decision at that time to communicate our views to you.

The MNACP membership is open to current or former conservation or natural resource professionals in Minnesota, including, for example, those who have worked in state and federal agencies, local government, the private and non-profit sectors, and academic institutions. Our organization is not a union, and in the past has been primarily involved in substantive and policy issues involving natural resources and environmental management.

We wish to thank you for the actions taken resulting in the viewing of the film at the University and on public television. The open dissemination of knowledge, including controversial information, and information on topics for which there is not necessarily complete agreement, is a very important part of the responsibilities of the University of Minnesota. When we first heard that the viewing of the film had been held up we were concerned, because these responsibilities are so important, as is the topic of freedom of inquiry.

We are writing also to emphasize the importance of the review that you are conducting of the internal events that originally held up the viewing of the film. There should be a full and open review of what happened so that concerns are allayed that the same thing does not occur again on topics that are less visible than this particular film.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

The Board, MNACP
PO Box 174
Little Falls, MN 56345-0174

c: Regents of the University of Minnesota
MNACP web site, www.mnacp.org