



July 31, 2017

Tammie Krausman
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Ms. Krausman and Members of the REAP Committee:

The Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce is pleased to endorse the City of Davenport's application to add amenities to Veterans Memorial Park. This project – on a critical piece of our downtown waterfront - will enhance the natural beauty and wildlife of the park and heighten its appeal to the thousands of residents and visitors who spend time on our riverfront each year.

Capitalizing on the Mississippi River has become a centerpiece of the Quad Cities' regional growth strategy. In 2015, the Chamber led a broad coalition of stakeholders in creating a bi-state plan – known as Q2030 – that seeks to develop the kind of cool, creative, connected, and prosperous community that attracts and retains talent. Through community surveys and focus groups, executives and residents alike identified the power of the Mississippi River as a unique and iconic attribute that can be a magnet for people, jobs and investment. We know that the young families we're seeking to attract look at the recreational opportunities available in a community when deciding where to locate. Adding to our bike trail network, opening new areas for wildlife, recreation, arts and culture, and maximizing some the most unobstructed views of the Mississippi River will appeal to this demographic and advance our vision of a cool community.

We further believe upgrades to Veterans Memorial Park symbolize the Quad Cities' ethos and community values, factors that millennials in particular look for in choosing a place to settle. An enhanced Veterans Park demonstrates the City of Davenport's pride in its citizens who have served in the military and its commitment to invest in environmental reclamation.

It is with high regard for our partners at the City of Davenport that we support their application. It's an important step in our Q2030 plan for regional growth and prosperity and we stand ready to assist in any way.

Sincerely,

Kristin Glass
Interim CEO
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce