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THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

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November 18, 2014

Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing to request your approval of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Section 18 emergency exemption to use potassium chloride to treat zebra mussels as expeditiously as possible.

In August 2014, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District discovered the existence of zebra mussels in Christmas Lake in Shorewood, Minnesota. The discovery of zebra mussels is extremely troubling and could have serious consequences for the health of not only Christmas Lake, but surrounding lakes as well. If the zebra mussels are not contained, they have the potential to produce up to 500,000 eggs per year.

Since the discovery of zebra mussels, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has worked tirelessly with its partners from the State of Minnesota and the City of Shorewood to contain the spread of this devastating species. The work undertaken by these groups has kept the containment zone to just 0.75-acre.

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has already begun applying Zeaquanox®, which has been effective in killing a large quantity of the zebra mussels. However, in order to ensure that the mussels are fully eradicated, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is seeking a Section 18 emergency exemption for the use of potassium chloride, commonly referred to as liquid potash. The few times liquid potash has been used to eradicate zebra mussels, it was shown to be 100 percent effective.

As we move closer to the winter season, ice has already begun to form in the shallow areas of Christmas Lake. If the lake is allowed to freeze over before the mussels are eradicated, it could have serious consequences for the lake's health. I am asking that the EPA approve the

Department's request as expeditiously as possible to ensure that there is adequate time to apply the liquid potash before the winter freeze.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ryan Huff on my staff at 202-225-2871 or [ryan.huff@mail.house.gov](mailto:ryan.huff@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erik Paulsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress