

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2015

Mr. David Studenski
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District
Regulatory Branch
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1678

Dear Mr. Studenski,

We write to request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to granting a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act for BNSF Railway's planned track expansion through the City of La Crosse and along the La Crosse River Marsh. A federal EIS is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for actions that could have significant environmental impacts, and it provides reasonable alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse effects.

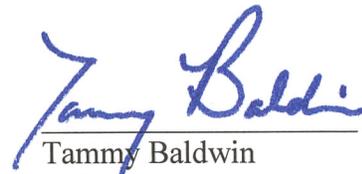
The purpose of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is to protect water and nearby wetland areas from any possible negative environmental impacts of discharges from dredged or fill material. Since BNSF Railway's planned track expansion includes the filling in of 7.2 acres of wetland, a Section 404 permit is necessary. We urge you to require an EIS to determine how water quality, vegetation, wildlife, flood drainage, and navigation of the La Crosse River Marsh and Mississippi River wetlands will be affected by the planned railway expansion.

The preservation and protection of the La Crosse River Marsh and the Mississippi River are vital to sustaining a strong economy, a high quality of life for communities along the river, and maintenance of a watershed rich with biodiversity. It is critical that all wetland impacts of this project are fully understood before a permit is granted. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator