UPWARD INITIATIVE
GROWING BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

APR 26 2012

April 23, 2012

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

The Honorable Susan Hedman
Region 5 Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Secretary Darcy and Administrator Hedman:

The UPWard Initiative Natural Resource subcommittee was formed as part of the action implementation phase resulting from a 2009 regional study for the design and development of a strategic regional plan focused on economic and talent development aligned with the demands of the 21st century economy. The initiative is a call to action for the region comprised of the fifteen counties in the UP and Florence and Marinette Counties in Wisconsin. The Natural Resources subcommittee is focused on continuing to promote the use of the region's natural resources in an environmentally sound, safe, and sustainable manner. We are also focused on proactive strategies that promote value-added economic activity within the region.

We are writing to share concerns regarding comments made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division of the Detroit District, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in response to a Public Notice for the proposed Marquette County Road 595 project. These comments were submitted by the Army Corps pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The CR road project has been proposed for Northern Marquette County to bring economic benefits to the area as well as to enhance public access and safety. This project is strongly supported by us and many other community leaders and is of great importance to our region.

The community is very sensitive to the environment and protection of our natural resource; our economy and quality of life depend upon strong protections. As all parties work to meet these important environmental standards, we ask that you work closely with the Road Commission and our community leaders to address our questions and concerns.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Vicki Schwab

Vicki Schwab, Co-Chair
Natural Resources Committee