

STATE OF MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mel Carnahan, Governor • Stephen M. Mahford, Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

OCT 5 2000

The Honorable Donald W. Summers  
State Representative  
State Capitol Building, Room 101-B  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Representative Summers:

This is in response to your request for a letter of support for a new water supply lake in Sullivan County to serve as a possible regional water supply source. The Department of Natural Resources supports the development of a long-term reliable drinking water source for this area as a means to improve the health and quality of life of the citizens of north central Missouri.

Several of the existing public water systems within the area are prone to water shortages during the recurring droughts of the area. Also, small surface water systems of the area face significant technical, managerial, and financial challenges in meeting more stringent drinking water standards now being proposed. Studies have shown that Milan's water supply lakes and Green City's water supply lake do not provide adequate capacity to meet even current water demands during extreme periods of drought such as occurred in the years 1953-1958. Because of drought conditions over the past 18 months in Sullivan County, the city of Milan, Green City, and the Sullivan Co. PWSD #1 are curtailing normal water uses. Each of the public water systems is seeking temporary alternative sources to prevent outages. However, these alternatives are temporary at best.

A reliable high quality source of drinking water is long overdue for north central Missouri. Construction of a new lake to serve as a regional water supply source would be one long-term option to eliminate the water shortage problems in the future. A new regional water supply source would also allow the area water systems to meet increased water demands associated with anticipated and needed future economic growth in the area. Without an additional water supply source, any economic growth will be hampered.

The evaluation of alternative long-term sources of drinking water for the area is necessary for the citizens of the area to receive the best water quality possible at affordable prices. The effort of regional cooperation in north central Missouri is encouraged and supported by the department.



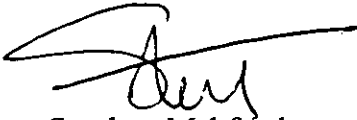
The Honorable Donald W. Summers  
Page 2

Thank you for your dedication to providing safe and adequate drinking water to the citizens of Missouri.

If you need additional information, please contact Ms. Deana Cash of the Public Drinking Water Program at (573) 751-5331.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Stephen Mahfood  
Director

SM:dcj

c: Everett Baker, NERO  
Steve McIntosh, WRP  
Jerry Lane, PDWP

*Never hesitate to contact  
Jeff or I if you need help.  
Thanks*