



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

July 20, 2012

Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am writing to ask you to help Michigan put the rapids back in Grand Rapids. Our second largest city, Grand Rapids, lost its signature landmark long ago through projects that have redirected the flow of the Grand River and eliminated the rapids for which the City was named. I hope the Urban Waters Federal Partnership will join the business, community, and philanthropic leaders who have rallied to this exciting vision.

Years ago, the sharp fall in the Grand River created rapids as breath-taking as those in Sault Ste. Marie. Grand Rapids has now adopted a *Green Grand Rapids* plan and aims to restore the river rapids to its natural state. The overall goal is to provide significant economic, social and environmental benefits – benefits comparable to the current Anacostia River Watershed project that the Urban Waters Federal Partnership supported.

One of my key priorities is to restore our cities, and a key aspect of that vision is to take better advantage of their natural assets. Michigan takes a "placemaking" approach to work with local partners to take a fresh look at natural and man-made assets to promote economic and community development. I know the goals of your program mesh well with this approach. This project, which at its heart works with local officials to revitalize a forgotten treasure, will be one that both Michigan and the United States can be proud to support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Snyder".

Rick Snyder
Governor

cc: Susan Hedman, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Enclosures (2)