Upper Mississippi River Region ILO

Highlights:

* PFAS activity:
  + A flyer and background produced on this “forever chemical”
  + Multiple meetings with speakers, publicity, flyer information and zoom webinar
  + Collected information from Wisconsin Leagues where these communities were affected by PFAS which will become material for a potential Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) lawsuit.
  + Testified at the EPA regarding PFAS standards for safe drinking water nationally. Currently bottled water is unregulated.
* Promoted the Upper Mississippi River Basin Organization (UMBRA) which is lobbying for environmental, economic and infrastructure programs for the entire Mississippi River system.
* Promoted a Minnesota Clean Water Council grant for small clean water projects for which two water shed districts submitted grant proposals.

**Governmental Action**

* Lobbied the MN Environmental Quality Board to incorporate climate information in the state’s environmental review process
* Lobbied the AG, Environmental and Transportation to include 13 principles of Clean Fuel Standards for Minnesota.
* Promoted once again support for the U of M Forever Green program and provide crop seeds and new farming methods to improve the soil.
* Support at the MN legislative for funding for the Clean Water Legacy
* Lobbied MN Transportation Committee to support highway habitat funding to reduce the use of pesticides in ditches.
* Wrote a referendum in conjunction with the Sierra Club and Wisconsin Water Alliance question for the Wisconsin spring elections declaring that citizens of LaCrosse County should have access to safe drinking water.
* Letter to a legislator to support solar energy and expand electric vehicle plug-in sites
* Testified at the Wisconsin NRB to establish a safe 20ppt combined PFOS and PFAO drinking water standard. Currently the NRB set drinking water standards to 70 ppt, three times higher than recommended by the Department of Natural Resources.
* Letter to the conference committee overseeing Minnesota lottery funds to restore, protect and enhance natural spaces.