



THE WETLANDS INITIATIVE

January 3, 2000

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Committee on Environment and
Natural Resources
Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Working Group
WS 13446 SSMC4
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Chairman:

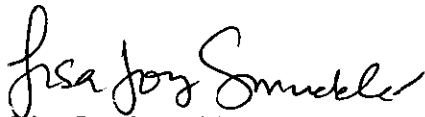
Founded in 1994, The Wetlands Initiative (TWI) is a not-for-profit Illinois corporation dedicated to the restoration of our nation's wetland resources to reduce flood damages, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, provide high quality

environmental benefits, the concept potentially offers important economic benefits – income to farmers and low-cost, market-based pollution control. Unlike conventional water treatment systems, nitrogen farming would require little or no fossil energy and, therefore, would be readily self-sustainable. The nitrogen farms would restore many of the natural functions of native landscapes, important functions that have been lost over the last three centuries. Nitrogen farms will trap sediments and remove other contaminants, including some pesticides, reduce flood damages, provide wildlife habitat and create high quality open space and recreational opportunities.

Enclosed, please find a copy of our most recent newsletter that is devoted entirely to the concept of nitrogen farming. Our agency is eager to reduce nitrogen inputs and to restore wetlands and riparian buffers in Illinois and along the Mississippi River. We think that our nitrogen farming strategy complements the CENR's goals for reduction of the hypoxia zone and would like to discuss collaboration with you on this project.

We look forward to your feedback on our nitrogen farming concept.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Joy Smuckler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lisa Joy Smuckler
Director of Development
Enclosure