

T A M S

The Association of Mink & Somers Lakes

August 12, 1971

Senator Hubert Humphrey  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Humphrey:

We are in hopes that you will be able to help us with a serious problem in regards to our lakes. We are a group of lakeshore owners (called Tams) who are united to try and fight pollution and aid in cleaning up the environment in the area.

The reason for writing you is that we are sure you will be interested as we understand that you donated Humphrey Island, located in Mink Lake to the Crippled Children of Minnesota. Our organization as of this year, has volunteered to help maintain and try and repair the damage to the island, caused by vandalism. It is such a beautiful island and we do want the Crippled Children to be able to enjoy it once again.

There is a dump located on the north end of a swamp that drains directly into Mink Lake. This dump is operated by Corinna Township. We are enclosing letters regarding this dump. We have the past few years, been fighting to have this dump closed. The Pollution Control Agency tells us ~~that~~ the dump is a polluting factor. They say that it should be closed, because it is also polluting the air and it attracts rats. We have not been successful as far as the township goes. They tell us we will have to go to court. Of course we do not have the money or resources to take them to court.

Each year the cabin owners of Mink and Somers Lakes contribute money and services to treat the lakes with copper sulphate. We are getting very discouraged and this year, I am afraid it will be the end, as the lakes as of this date are closed to swimming and water skiing as they are contaminated. Cows have been reported as dying as a result of drinking water from Somer Lake.

These lake shore owners are seasonal people, who pay outrageous taxes to Wright County and if they cannot use the lakes for recreational purposes, then what is the use?

Would it be possible for you, Senator Humphrey, to check on this for us? We have written Governor Anderson and we have received no answer. We do not know where to turn now.

Very truly yours



HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
MINNESOTA

*United States Senate*

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1971

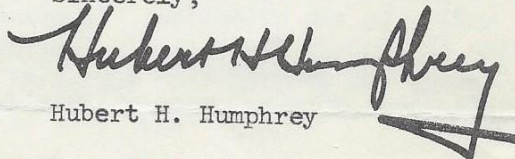
Mr. Raymond Cech, Chairman  
The Association of Mink & Somers Lakes  
4313 7th Street, N.E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55421

Dear Mr. Cech:

I have received a report concerning the situation you have described to me in your letter. I thought you might like to have a copy of this, so I am enclosing one for your information. I hope this is useful to you.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Hubert H. Humphrey



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Washington, D. C. 20460

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Honorable Hubert Humphrey  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

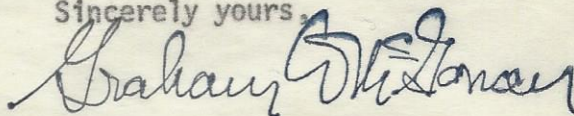
Dear Senator Humphrey:

Thank you for your inquiry on behalf of Mr. Raymond Cech of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who was concerned about a dump operated by Corinna Township, which allegedly pollutes Mink Lake.

This Agency shares the concern of the Association of Mink and Somers Lakes in the alleviation of pollution of this type. The jurisdiction of this Agency, however, is constrained in the matters of water pollution by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. According to this Act, certain Federal actions can be taken when pollution from one State affects the health or welfare of persons in another State, when a request is received for technical assistance to solve a particular problem, or when Federal-State water quality standards are being violated. The pollution that is the concern of Mr. Cech is within the principal jurisdiction of State and local authorities and is not within the direct jurisdictional authority of this Agency.

I am sending copies of this correspondence to our Regional Administrator in the Region V Office in Chicago, with the request that he contact the appropriate State authorities of Minnesota to discuss this situation and to mutually work towards a solution to the existing problem, which will result in the protection of water quality in Mink Lake. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. We are doing everything within our jurisdiction to protect the Nation's waterways and to preserve the lakes of the Country and protect them from over enrichment that produces biological nuisances such as Mr. Cech described.

Sincerely yours,



Graham W. McGowan  
Director of Congressional Affairs