EQB

February 6, 1992

The Honorable Gene Merriam
Chairman
Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources
Room 65 State Office Building
100 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55155-1201

Dear Senator Merriam:

The final report of the Environmental Quality Board Water Research Advisory Committee is enclosed, for your information and use. The Board believes that it represents a significant step forward in a constructive process of communication and coordination between the University community and State Government. We hope that it will strongly influence the development and funding of water research in Minnesota.

In particular, the Board recommends that the Commission fund research on the following project-level priorities from the Advisory Committee's report. The Board believes that adequate funding of these priorities is **immediately required to support state water management activities.**

The Board strongly urges funding in the upcoming biennium to:

a. Delineate and quantify the factors that determine wetland functions and develop standardized methods for their measurement.

b. Determine the fate of toxic compounds in lakes.

c. Develop a system for monitoring water availability and water quality trends in the state.

d. Continue the accelerated development of county ground water atlases and regional sensitivity assessments.

e. Evaluate the effectiveness of nitrogen management practices in minimizing contamination of water resources.

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f. Improve the understanding of contaminant movement through the unsaturated zone.

g. Develop and implement a Twin Cities metropolitan ground water model.

h. Determine the effectiveness of urban stormwater management practices.

i. Develop and apply models to predict contaminant transport in Minnesota's large rivers.

There is no order of priority in the Board's recommendation. An expanded explanation of the priorities is attached, for your information.

We hope that this report aids in focusing state funds on research of these key project-level priorities. If it does so, the management of water resources in Minnesota will be greatly enhanced.

Sincerely,

ROBERT DUNN
Chair
Environmental Quality Board