To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

The memorial of the citizens of Hancock County and its environs in the state of Illinois respectfully represent that the navigation of the Mississippi river at the Des Moines Rapids is greatly obstructed by rocks, which render it not only difficult but very dangerous. The use of steam is indispensable to overcome the impetuosity of the current in ascending — and the quick motion of the boat to preserve her steerage in descending renders a collision against those cragged rocks extremely perilous. Steamboats are often stove on the rocks, their Boilers have burst, several lives have been lost and many others jeopardized. To pass these chains in low water with loaded boats is impracticable the freight is all necessarily conveyed over in Keels, and the Boats even after having discharged their freight are often several days in getting through. Above these Rapids, bordering on the Mississippi and its tributaries lies an extensive & fertile Country capable of supporting a dense population, much of it yet owned by the General Government, the value of which would be greatly enhanced by a free navigation. Add to this, the Lead mine country, which for richness of soil and abundance of Mineral is not surpassed by any tract of country yet known. Immense quantities of lead annually pass over these rapids, with a free livelihood upon it commensurate with the delays, difficulties and dangers which have to be surmounted. The Obstructions in the lower chain as delineated in the diagram below are estimated by the best pilots to be 300 yards those at the second chain are 220 yards, making an aggregate of 520 yards of irregular stupendous masses of Calcareous rock. These being removed would open a free and uninterrupted Steamboat navigation to the upper Country. We therefore pray your honors to grant a sum of money to be applied in removing the Obstructions in the Steamboat Channel on the lower or Des Moines rapids and your memorialists as in duty bound will be improved with a deep sense of Gratitude &c.

Richard M. Young
Cyrus Walker
Ths Robison
A. Walker
C. B. Browning
C. H. Scatten
R. R. Williams
Wesley Williams
Hiram Kennedy
John Walsh
A. Williams
Peter Lott
Lafferd Totten
M. Marich
J. H. Ralston
Samuel B. Mead
Walter Bagby
Edwd Enlow
John A. Bebe
M. D. Bagby
S. F. Marsh
D. A. Fullerton
S. G. Ferris
Wm E. Wells
W. B. Goodall
Edson Whitney
Levi Williams
Lewis Paton
Sanford Williams
Moses White
John Reynolds
Peter Butler
Edward Farley
John S. Finaly
Dawson Hilard
David Casebier
Roger Hebard
Hugh White
Roger S. Hebard
Jackson Casebier
Lewis Collins
R. Montgomery
J. Huffman
Aaron H. Golden
Ike B. Rowe
C. Hoffer
James F. Campbell
Frederick Loring
Matthew Eubanks
George V. Eubanks

Chas E. Wells
Thos H. Owen
E. P. Brown
D. R. Wells
Wm. Lunn
Field Jarvis
G. A. Brown
Nicholas Laughing
Abram Golden
George Middleton
Edward Smith
Benjamin Bowman
James King
Wm Allison
Robt Taylor
John Gordon
Jonathan J. Gordon
Samuel Gordon
R. Wert
Elias Worrell
Austin Pennock
Elihue Pennock
Simeon Pennock
Daniel Pennock
Artois Hamilton
Geo W. Wells
P. L. Spaulding
B. Whitaker
Geo. Catlin
John Cochran
John Cochran jr
Jonathan Cochran
Samuel Cochran
N. Knapp
E. Gilbert
John Cutler
John A. Knapp
Joseph A. Douglass
Jos. Norton
Edward White
John McElwee
John Trowell
Amos Lundy
L. Hawkins
John Edrington

E. L. Ayers
S. Seely
Wm Ball
H. G. Ferrell
Wm. C. Harryman
Josiah Kime
Geo Seely
Robt. Liggett
Ralph Parsons
Gazzi Steele
Albany Smith
Lathan Partlick
James S. Gallaher
W. B. Gallaher
John Robinson
G. A. Hudspall
Christopher Stephens
Guyo Papin
Mr. S. Wood
Jesse McCan
Peter Guyo
Saml Preston
Jesse Williamson
Edwd Barnett
Geo. Compton
Wm Cuff
Jos. Duncan
John Murry
E. Eddy
Geo. Dawson
John E. Abbot
Wm Burchstead
G. R. Bliss
John Skinner
Orran Skinner
James Moffitt
D. Willis
John Clark
Fotham Clark
Cornelius Hurley
Freeman Dodd
James Gray
Jno Eder
Samuel Knox
Jno Dedman
Geo. Frakes
Peter Wells
Rodephus Tarwoley
Stephen Pennock
Adolphus Allen