



## DEAR FRIENDS,

First off, thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and for keeping our waterways clean! As this letter reaches you, we're still hard at work on the river. The 2019 season has been amazing so far and we still have dozens of cleanups ahead! **THANKS TO YOU**, we've already collected 451,998 pounds of garbage so far - everything from the usual suspects (plastic bottles, tires and 55-gallon barrels) to our first drone and more messages in bottles. We've also educated 4,302 students and distributed 103,852 trees.

Prior to heading to the Ohio River, we spent considerable time on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers due to the massive floods that affected so many people and communities. Like we often do, we just rolled with it - shifting gears and altering our original cleanup schedule. With the help of our amazing volunteers, we removed thousands of pounds of flood debris from 15 communities over a 6-week timeframe.

But, as we've learned, the problem goes beyond our local waterways. There continues to be a lot of attention placed on the amount of garbage - specifically plastics - in our oceans and we now know that 90% of it is coming from our rivers. Your support means that you're not only keeping our rivers clean but our oceans as well. There's a lot more work left to do and we're showing no signs of slowing down!

I'm writing to not only give you an update on our progress but also to ask for your support. The more you give, the more we can do! Our 2020 goals will be focused on continued flood relief efforts (primarily on the Mississippi River), student education, land restoration projects and tree distribution. No matter how you choose to contribute, you're always in the boat with us and we can't thank you enough for all you do!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad".

Chad Pregracke  
Founder & President  
Living Lands & Waters



The background of the entire image is a large American flag, its stars and stripes clearly visible. In the foreground, there is a vast field of discarded trash, including plastic bottles, food wrappers, and other debris, scattered across a dark, possibly asphalt or dirt surface. The trash field extends from the bottom edge of the image up to the base of the flag.

# 10,678,097 POUNDS REMOVED

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