



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission

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Members of the House: Anne Claflin (DFL – 54A); Tony Jurgens (R – 54B) **Members of the Senate:** David Senjem (R – 25); Patricia Torres Ray (DFL – 63) **State Agency Appointees:** Paul Hugunin – Agriculture, Open – Transportation, Lisa Havelka – Explore Minnesota Tourism, Grant Wilson – Natural Resources, David Kelliher – Historical Society **Regional Appointees:** Sally Fineday – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids, Megan Christianson – Grand Rapids to Brainerd, Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River, Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings, Open – Hastings to Iowa Border **Member at Large:** Anne Lewis

August 31, 2020

Mississippi River Parkway Commission
701 E Washington Avenue, #202
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Aitkin Chamber of Commerce Interpretive Center Nomination

The Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission is pleased to support the Aitkin Chamber of Commerce in its request for addition to the Network of Great River Road Interpretive Centers. MN-MRPC members were involved with development and review of this nomination.

The Aitkin Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center is located in a historic downtown building and contains a display of the community's river heritage. The Center also provides broader area visitor information and partners with the Aitkin County Historical Society.

The City of Aitkin prides itself on being a "Mississippi Riverboat Town." The Aitkin County area includes a series of hidden gems and up-close river experiences like no where else. Designation of this Great River Road Interpretive Center would provide visitors with a one stop shop for information and guidance to access all that the area has to offer. There is a dedicated committee of local partners behind this effort, enthusiastic to take on the responsibilities and opportunities of Interpretive Center designation.

The MN-MRPC looks forward to the Aitkin Chamber's selection as a National Great River Road Interpretive Center, and to helping promote this unique area to travelers from all Mississippi River states and beyond.

Sincerely,

Sen. David Senjem, Chair