



MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION

701 East Washington Avenue, Suite 202
Madison, WI 53703



September 2020

Dear Friends,

It has been a pleasure being your National Pilot. Over these two years, MRPC has reinforced sustainability, inclusiveness and political action. We have a better financial balance sheet and an Endowment Committee to oversee it. Our September 17th Conference of the Great River Road will illustrate connections with MS River Country, MRCTI, NPS & U. S Fish & Wildlife. Our voice is being heard in Washington as we lobby for NSB funding through resolutions, emails and telephone calls to the 20 Senators and numerous Representatives along our 10 state corridor.

Former Transportation Sec. Rodney Slater focused our Commission with his dynamic speech in West Memphis AR. Sec. Slater complimented MRPC's Corridor Management Plan. He termed our GRR the "Spine of the Nation" With that beginning, the All American Road application was an opportunity to enhance our National Scenic Byway designation.

Optimistic feedback from a Transportation Committee Senator suggests NSB funding will be a reality. Through the efforts of many commissioners and DOT personnel, our GRR is prepared for these opportunities. Our Commissions will develop wayshowing, increase signage, enhance Interpretive Centers and improve our state highways along the MS River. Our organization has quite a future. As Pilot Emeritus, I hope to continue to serve for the betterment of the Great River Road.

Terri Austin McCullough, Ph.D.
Pilot, Mississippi River Parkway Commission