



Kim Reynolds
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Adam Gregg
LT. GOVERNOR

May 22, 2020

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear National Scenic Byways Program:

It's with great enthusiasm that I offer my recommendation of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission to the Great River Road National Scenic Byway designation.

Since 1938 the ten-state national Mississippi River Parkway Commission has worked to preserve, promote and enhance the Great River Road National Scenic Byway benefiting communities and travelers along the Mississippi River. The Great River Road meets All-American Road designation criteria, possessing many and varied intrinsic resources that are of national significance. As the official access to the Mississippi River through ten states since the time pleasure driving began, The Great River is an iconic destination and reason for travel unto itself for many, whether for a few hours or a few months. I applaud that all ten Great River Road states are seeking All-American Road designation from the Federal Highway Administration.

The Great River Road has importance for all communities along the river-from small and rural to large and metropolitan- as an artery of stewardship, storytelling, tourism and commerce along the Mississippi River benefiting visitors and residents alike in our state. In the northwestern corner of Iowa, the Mississippi journeys a picturesque landscape formed of high rocky bluffs and narrow limestone gorges as the Great River Road spans 326 Iowa miles as it passes through ten counties, numerous towns and urban centers.

I encourage you to consider the Mississippi River Parkway Commission to the Great River Road National Scenic Byway designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa

REPLY TO:

- 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
www.grassley.senate.gov
- 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2106
(515) 288-1145
- 111 7TH AVENUE, SE, BOX 13
SUITE 6800
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

April 7, 2020

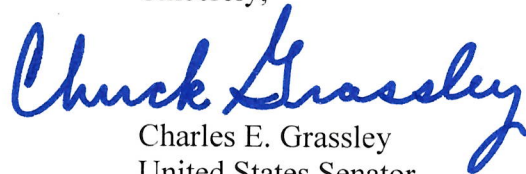
Lisa Walsh
Commissioner
Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Dear Ms Walsh:

I have contacted Elaine Chao, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, regarding the application submitted by the Mississippi River Commission for the All-American Road designation for the Great River Road. I asked that this application be given all due consideration. Should I receive any specific information regarding this application from the U.S. Department of Transportation, I will relay the necessary information to you.

Thank you for allowing me to be of assistance to you. If you have any further questions regarding this, or any other federal matter, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

CEG/sk

REPLY TO:

- 120 FEDERAL BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- 201 WEST 2ND STREET
SUITE 720
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1817
(563) 322-4331
- 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
JUDICIARY

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

CHAIRMAN,
FINANCE

April 8, 2020

Federal Highway Administration:

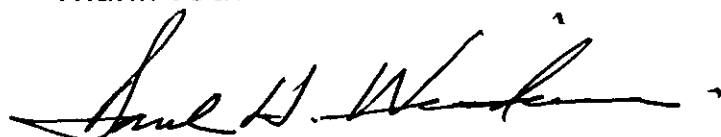
I am writing this letter in support of designing the "Great River Road" an "All-American Road."

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission was created in 1938 to preserve, promote and enhance the communities along the Mississippi River. As the official access to the Mississippi River through ten states, The Great River Road has importance for all communities along the river from small to large. The economic benefits from tourism alone are enormous. The many visitor centers along the Great River Road provide insight and storytelling about the importance of the Mississippi River to the heart land.

In Iowa, the Great River Road spans 326 miles and passes through ten counties and numerous towns and urban centers. Each year thousands of tourists take this exciting road to explore the wonder and awe of the Mississippi River.

In closing, the history, length and great asset the Great River Road provides warrants the designation "All-American Road."

Thank You!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel H. Wiedemeier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel H. Wiedemeier

Past Chair, Iowa Department of Transportation Commission



721 S. 2nd St.
Clinton, IA 52732
563-242-5702
www.clintonia.com



CLINTON, IOWA
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Clinton * Camanche * Fulton

April 14, 2020

Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames IA 50010

Re: Great River Road All-American Road Designation

Col. Martin Graver, Chair and Commission Members,

The Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to provide this letter of support for designation of the Iowa Great River Road as an All-American Road by the Federal Highway Administration. The Great River Road is truly worthy of such designation.

The Great River Road meets All-American Road designation criteria, possessing many and varied intrinsic resources that are of national significance. As *the* official access to the Mississippi River through ten states since the time pleasure driving began, the Great River Road is an iconic destination and reason for travel unto itself for many, whether for a few hours or a few months. In the city of Clinton, the Great River Road intersects with another iconic highway - the Lincoln Highway, which traverses our country from coast to coast.

Since 1938 the ten-state national Mississippi River Parkway Commission has worked to preserve, promote and enhance the Great River Road National Scenic Byway benefiting communities and travelers along the Mississippi River. We applaud that all ten Great River Road states are seeking All-American Road designation from the Federal Highway Administration and we support Iowa and its nine partner states in this endeavor.

The Great River Road has importance for all communities along the river – from small and rural, to large and metropolitan - as an artery of stewardship, storytelling, tourism and commerce along the Mississippi River benefitting visitors and residents alike. In Iowa, the Great River Road spans 341 miles, 10 counties, and many communities, guided by a Corridor Management Plan that meets FHWA requirements for All-American Road designation. The byway brings travelers to unique and exceptional landscapes and experiences starting at the iconic headwaters of the Mississippi River.

Clinton's own Edith Pfeffer was an early advocate who guided the 2015 Iowa Great River Road Corridor Management Plan. Our Convention and Visitors Bureau supports the development of tourism along the Great River Road and appreciates the opportunities available to us a Great River Road community.

The Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce and Clinton Convention and Visitors Bureau heartily endorse Iowa's efforts, along with its partner states, to have the Great River Road designated as an All-American Road by the Federal Highway Administration.

Sincerely,

Maureen Miller

Maureen Miller, President/CEO
Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce

Mary Seely

Mary Seely, Executive Director
Clinton Convention and Visitors Bureau



April 17th, 2020

Burlington Park and Recreation Department
400 Washington St.
Burlington, Iowa 52601

Re: Great River Road All-American Road Designation

Dear Lisa T. Walsh,

The Burlington Park and Recreation Department wholeheartedly supports designation of the Iowa Great River Road as an All-American Road by the Federal Highway Administration.

The Great River Road meets All-American Road designation criteria, possessing many and varied intrinsic resources that are of national significance. The Great River Road has importance for all communities along the river as evidenced in this nomination. The byway brings travelers to unique and exceptional landscapes and experiences including our local parks, roads and visitor amenities in Burlington, Iowa

Here in Burlington we are very proud of Crapo Park. The views in and adjacent to Crapo Park are irreplaceable, distinctive, beautiful, and are of great value to our city, region, and the State of Iowa. The Great River Road runs directly through Crapo Park in our community. It is an 85 acre city park established in 1895 for Iowa's semi-centennial celebrations, and boasts an arboretum, botanical gardens, and some of the best views of the Mississippi River alongside the Great River Road. It is reputed to be the site where the American flag was first raised on Iowa's soil, by Zebulon Pike in 1805. Crapo Park was also added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Rural communities, like ours, depend on the Great River Road to attract visitors to diners, restaurants, hotels, as well as local parks, museums, and other tourist sites. So the value this designation will bring to our community is immeasurable.

The Burlington Park and Recreation Department endorses Iowa's efforts, along with its partner states, to have the Great River Road designated as an All-American Road by the Federal Highway Administration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Gourley
Superintendent of Parks/Forestry



Greater
BURLINGTON
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

A Division of the Greater Burlington Partnership

May 1, 2020

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Federal Highway Administration:

On behalf of the Greater Burlington Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), I would like to show support for the Mississippi River Parkway Commission's application for the Great River Road's All-American Road designation. The Great River Road is an iconic destination and reason for travel unto itself for many. The CVB applauds the efforts all ten Great River Road states are taking to seek All-American Road designation from the Federal Highway Administration.

The Great River Road has importance for all communities along the river – from small and rural, to large and metropolitan – as an artery of stewardship, storytelling, tourism and commerce along the Mississippi River benefitting visitors. In Iowa, the Great River Road is a trip like no other. In this northeastern corner of the state, the Mississippi journeys a picturesque landscape formed of high rocky bluffs and narrow limestone gorges. In Iowa, the Great River Road spans 326 miles, passes thru ten counties, and numerous towns and urban centers.

The Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission continues to be a quality tourism partner for the entire state of Iowa. Tourism in Greater Burlington contributes over \$144.9 M in visitor expenditures, according to *The Economic Impact of Travel on Iowa Counties 2018* by the U.S. Travel Association. We know many of these visitors stop in Burlington for a chance to be up close with the Mississippi River. The All-American Road designation will help the Mississippi River Parkway Commission to continue their mission to preserve, promote and enhance the Great River Road National Scenic Byway while benefitting communities and travelers along the Mississippi River.

The Mississippi River acts as the front door to Burlington. The community is working hard to continue to improve the riverfront amenities and this new designation will help to encourage additional visitors to take a journey here. I hope the Federal Highway Administration will consider the Mississippi River Parkway Commission application for All-American Road designation for approval.



Chelsea Lerud

Executive Director

Greater Burlington Convention & Visitors Bureau

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-118

Meeting No.
8

Paper No.
21

Seconded By: Graham-Murray
AYES: Maupin, Linker, Billups, Critser
NAYS: None + Graham-Murray

Introduced By:
Linker

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR GREAT RIVER ROAD ALL-AMERICAN ROAD DESIGNATION BY THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the "Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act of 2019" reopened applications for new All-American Road and National Scenic Byway designations to be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration, United States Department of Transportation by May 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, since 1938 the ten-state national Mississippi River Parkway Commission preserves, promotes and enhances the Great River Road National Scenic Byway benefitting communities and travelers along the Mississippi River. Between 2000 and 2009 the ten Mississippi River states successfully achieved National Scenic Byway designation; and

WHEREAS, the Great River Road meets All-American Road designation criteria, possessing intrinsic resources that are of national significance and is a destination and reason for travel unto itself. In December 2018 the ten-state national Mississippi River Parkway Commission adopted a Ten-State Great River Road Corridor Management Plan that compliments and leverages state-specific corridor management plans; and

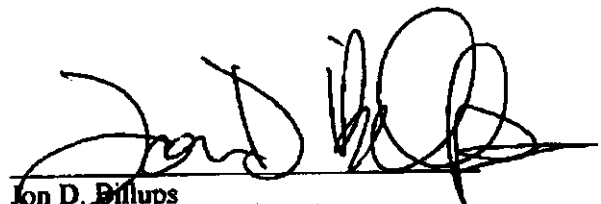
WHEREAS, the national Mississippi River Parkway Commission is championing applications from all ten states to seek designation as an All-American Road for the Great River Road during this application period so that it can further cement the Great River Road's importance to the many Mississippi River landscapes and communities - from small and rural, to large and metropolitan - as an artery of stewardship, storytelling, tourism and commerce along the Mississippi River benefitting visitors and residents alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Burlington, Iowa, heartily endorses the ten-state Mississippi River Parkway Commissions' and State Departments of Transportations' applications to have the Great River Road designated as an All-American Road by the Federal Highway Administration.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 20th day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:


Kathleen P. Salisbury, MMC
City Clerk


Jon D. Billups
Mayor

FILED - For

APR 20 2020

CITY CLERK
BURLINGTON, IOWA

*There are some who can live without wild things,
and some who cannot.* — *A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold, 1949*

To the Federal Highway Administration:

The Leopold Landscape Alliance (LLA) in Burlington, Iowa would like to add our voices to the many others who are in support of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway. We are glad that the ten Great River Road states are seeking All-American Road designation from the Federal Highway Administration, and that the national Mississippi River Parkway Commission has been working hard to make this designation a reality.

LLA is a 501-c-3 conservation organization that focuses on land restoration and promoting the philosophy of famed ecologist and naturalist Aldo Leopold. We administer the Leopold Farmstead, where Aldo grew up and began his earliest thoughts on wildlife management, wilderness, and ecology. We also promote his philosophy of community responsibility for natural landscapes.

With the distinction of being an All-American Road, more protection is stimulated for rural roadside values in our cultural and natural landscapes. Local land restoration for flood plain & bluff lands could lead to water quality improvements and reduction of flood waters.

Having the Great River Road come through Burlington not only enables visitors to enjoy an historic Mississippi River town, but also become familiar with Leopold's famous "Land Ethic."

We hope you will confer All-American Road status to the Great River Road.

Sincerely,



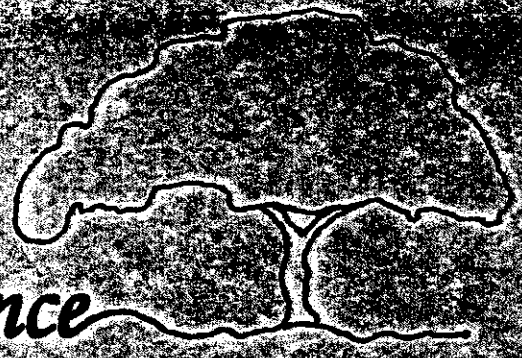
Board of Directors,

Leopold Landscape Alliance

111 Clay Street

Burlington, IA 52601

www.leopoldalliance.org



Leopold Landscape Alliance

The history of an oak read like a book to Aldo. He perceived all manner of relationships within its wood and under its canopy. For the Starker-Leopold family a tree was the symbolic place of celebration — births, peace, weddings and the circle of life. It represented camp, shelter, aesthetics and utility all in one. The tree was a meeting place of spirit, bringing people together.

111 Clay Street, Burlington, Iowa 52601
13700 Washington Road, West Burlington, Iowa 52655
www.leopoldalliance.org

March 31, 2019

Since 1938, the ten-state national Mississippi River Parkway Commission has worked to preserve, promote and enhance the Great River Road National Scenic Byway benefitting communities and travelers along the Mississippi River. The Great River Road meets All-American Road designation criteria, possessing many and varied intrinsic resources that are of national significance.

As the official access to the Mississippi River through ten states since the time pleasure driving began, the Great River is an iconic destination and reason for travel unto itself for many, whether for a few hours or a few months. We applaud that all ten Great River Road states are seeking All-American Road designation from, the Federal Highway Administration.

The Great River Road has importance for all communities along the river-from small and rural, to large and metropolitan- as an artery of stewardship, storytelling, tourism and commerce along the Mississippi River benefitting visitors in Iowa.

In Iowa, the Great River Road is a trip like no other, In this northwestern corner of Iowa, the Mississippi journeys a picturesque landscape formed of high rocky bluffs and narrow limestone gorges. In Iowa, the Great River Road spans 326 miles, passes thru ten counties, numerous towns and urban centers.

My reason for contacting you is to ask for a letter of support. I am one of ten commissioners appointed by the governor of Iowa. I represent Des Moines County. The other nine counties are working hand in hand with the other 10 states. Our deadline for making application is May 15. With all the unrest in the world we have met by teleconference over the past weeks and have decided to keep working on this application. We feel that this is important to our states we all represent.

I would like to hear from you. You can reach me anytime at lwalsh6172@gmail.com or 319-850-1950.

Sincerely,

Lisa T. Walsh



211 N. Gear Avenue, Suite 100
West Burlington, Iowa 52655

Tel: 319.753.5107

Fax: 319.754.4763

Website: www.seirpc.com

April 16, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

As the Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA) serving Lee, Des Moines, and Louisa Counties in Southeast Iowa, SEIRPC fully supports the efforts of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission to gain All-American Road designation.

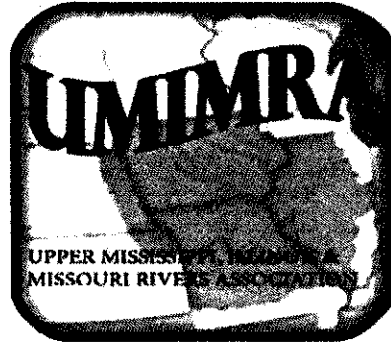
Since 1938 the Great River Road National Scenic Byway has greatly benefited the ten states, all their communities, and travelers along the Mississippi River. Specifically, in Iowa the Great River Road passes thru ten counties and numerous cities, including the three counties we represent in Southeast Iowa. Along this journey, you will find many unique sites that display the scenic values of each area along the byway, offer recreation opportunities, and provide opportunities to learn about local history and culture through historic and archaeological sites, amongst other natural intrinsic qualities. Just in the three counties of Southeast Iowa alone, we hit all of these intrinsic values with sites to stop at including Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge, Toolesboro Indian Mounds National Historic Site, Old Fort Madison, Flint River Trail, Crapo Park, George M. Verity Riverboat Museum. While this three-county area only represents a small portion of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, it only provides a snapshot of all the other sites available to experience along the way through all ten states. Due to the abundance of opportunities to view scenery, enjoy recreation, learn about local culture and history, it seems prudent that we should hold this byway to a higher standard as an All-American Road.

For these reasons, SEIRPC extends its full support to the Mississippi River Parkway Commission in its effort to gain an All-American Road Designation for the Great River Road and hopes you agree with our assessment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary M. James
Assistant Director

Tim Maiers
Executive Director
Michael Klingner
Chairman, Illinois
Jim Koeller
Vice Chairman, Illinois
Dianne Barnett
Treasurer, Illinois
David McMurray
Executive Committee, Iowa
John Winkelman
Executive Committee, Missouri
Vicki Stoller
Director, Iowa



Bruce Brinkman
Director, Illinois
Dan Engeman
Director, Missouri
Philip Held
Director, Missouri
Al Muhlenbruck
Director, Iowa
Brent Hoerr
Director, Missouri
Danny Kuenzel
Director, Missouri
Kirby Wagner
Director, Illinois

April 24, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Upper Mississippi, Illinois & Missouri Rivers Association (UMIMRA) in support of the application of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, which is seeking an All-American Road designation from the Federal Highway Administration.

UMIMRA is a grassroots organization dedicated to improving flood protection in the Upper Mississippi River Valley through a comprehensive plan that considers economic, navigational, environmental, and recreational opportunities. UMIMRA has 66 years of experience in speaking as one voice for those living, working, and investing in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

The Great River Road National Scenic Byway is an essential artery for the heartland of America. This road is critical for both rural and urban communities in the ten states along the river. The River Road not only provides necessary transportation to the people living and working along the great Mississippi River, but it is also an iconic destination for travelers from all over the country.

The Great River Road meets the All-American Road designation criteria, possessing archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities. The road has many varied intrinsic resources that are of national significance.

This designation will help increase tourism to these communities and help make more Americans aware of this picturesque landscape and the stories along the route.

Flood protection is critical for the future of the Mississippi River and for the Great River Road National Scenic Byway.

Our organization urges your approval of this application in designating the Great River Road National Scenic Byway an All-American Road. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tim Maiers'.

Tim Maiers, Executive Director
Upper Mississippi, Illinois & Missouri Rivers Association