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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