

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We are writing to express our support for a “corridor” designation for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS), under America’s Marine Highway Program.

As you know, the MKARNS provides multiple benefits, including navigation, reliable water supply, hydropower generation, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and flood risk reduction. Many of these benefits accrue to communities far beyond the banks of the River, including electricity customers throughout our multi-state region, as well as to shippers at farms, factories, and businesses throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and surrounding states. With year-round availability, the MKARNS provides service to an even larger, expanded region during harsh winter months.

With the most western ports in the central United States, the MKARNS allows for the safe and affordable shipment of billions of dollars’ worth of wheat, soybeans, sand and gravel, iron and steel, fertilizer, and other commodities. Over the past two years, the MKARNS has experienced a nearly 9% increase in tonnage. Three designated Foreign Trade Zones are located along the River, at the Ports of Little Rock, Muskogee, and Tulsa. This waterway expands export opportunities for products and commodities from our region to dozens of countries around the world.

As you know, there are many benefits to transportation networks that include robust waterway systems. Increased waterways usage eases congestion on other modes of transportation, shrinking shipping costs, lowering emissions, and reducing maintenance costs for other infrastructure. For all these reasons, a “corridor” designation for the MKARNS will promote economic opportunity and development for communities across our multi-state region.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be helpful as you review the MKARNS designation. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our support, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jim Inhofe
United States Senator



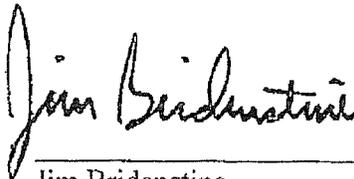
Mark Pryor
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



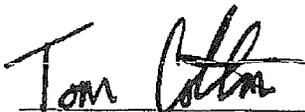
Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress



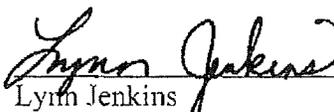
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



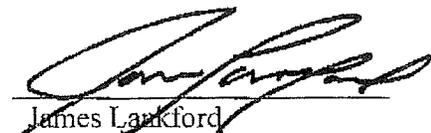
Tom Cotton
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



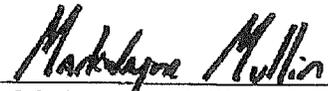
Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



James Lankford
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress

