

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2013

The Honorable David T. Matsuda
Administrator
Maritime Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Room W22-314 (West Building)
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Matsuda,

The Marine Highway Program has proven to be a powerful tool in placing value on America's inland waterways as the safest, most efficient and environmentally friendly mode of transportation. However, two critical corridors – the M-29 and M-94 – have not yet been recognized.

We have been informed that an application has been filed by the Port of Kansas City for the M-29 Kansas City Connector, linking Kansas City, Missouri to Sioux City, Iowa, and by extension, linking the M-70 Marine Highway Corridor. We have also been informed that the Minnesota Department of Transportation will soon be submitting an application for the M-94 Upper Mississippi Connector, linking Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota to St. Louis, Missouri, and by extension, linking to the M-55 Marine Highway Corridor and the M-70 Marine Highway Corridor. We write to express our full support for the M-29 Kansas City Connector and the M-94 Upper Mississippi Connector.

As you know, receiving Marine Highway designation allows terminals within a corridor to receive technical assistance and consultation from the Maritime Administration, providing access to vital resources and information. In addition, Marine Highway designation acts as an important federal stamp-of-approval for corridors – encouraging economic growth and increasing the likelihood of receiving federal grant awards.

The Upper Mississippi and Upper Missouri have long been a critical part of the inland waterways system, allowing for the delivery of mid-western products to locations all over the world. With upcoming advancements to many inland terminals becoming necessary due to the Panama Canal's new lock opening in 2015, the terminals in our region need and deserve the benefits of Marine Highway designation.

An outward sign that M-29 and M-94 are valued corridors of transportation, the Marine Highway designation will show value in locating along our region's inland waterway system, just as businesses look to locate along the interstate system.

We respectfully urge you to grant Marine Highway designation to the M-29 Kansas City Connector and the M-94 Upper Mississippi Connector.

Sincerely,



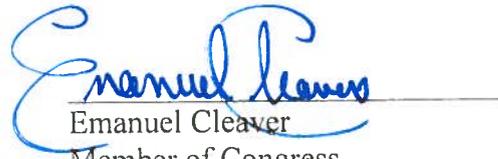
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Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



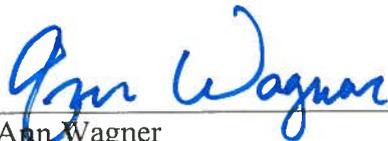
Steve King
Member of Congress



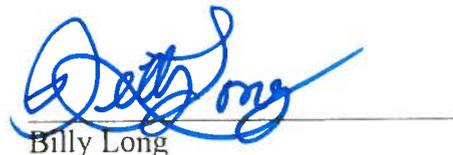
Bill Enyart
Member of Congress



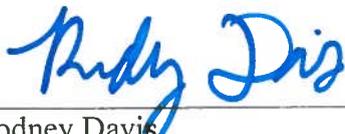
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