



August 14, 2015

Members of the Mississippi River Commission

Low Water Inspection

My name is Greg Curlin, and it is a privilege to testify before you today. I am the Executive Director of the Hickman-Fulton Co. Riverport Authority, located at the Elvis Stahr Harbor and mile marker 922 on the lower Mississippi in Hickman, Kentucky. On behalf of the Hickman-Fulton Co. Riverport Authority Board and the residents of Fulton County, Kentucky, and surrounding areas, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this meeting.

First of all, I would like to thank the Mississippi River Commission for their support and influence in securing this year's dredging funding for the small harbors along the Mississippi River. As you know, the ports and harbors are a part of the waterway network that is so important to moving goods along the Mississippi River Valley. As you have heard many times, we need open harbors, flood control and navigation. You cannot have flood control without navigation and you can't have navigation if you can't get in and out of the harbors. I would ask the Mississippi River Commission to continue to keep dredging of the small harbors a priority. If we don't continue to keep our local, state and federal officials informed then there is no guarantee that the harbors will continue to be dredged. I would hate to see the Elvis Stahr Harbor shut down by lack of dredging as it was in 2012.

We are anxiously awaiting the dredge to arrive in 2015. The Riverport received notification that the dredge should arrive in Hickman on or around the first week of September. The Elvis Stahr Harbor will have a limited amount of dredging performed again in 2015. Any dredging is appreciated, but at some point we hope to get the funding needed to dredge the entire harbor and turning basin. The Elvis Stahr Harbor received partial dredging one year ago, in August of 2014. This funding provided dredging for about one third of the harbor.

I will continue to work with the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association and the Inland River Ports and Terminals to unite all ports, large and small, to create a stronger voice and bring attention to harbor maintenance along the Mississippi River. Last, I would like to thank Vickie Watson of the Corps of Engineers, who keeps the Hickman-Fulton County Riverport updated on dredging activities and helps to make the dredging of the harbor successful.

Thank you again for your time.


Greg Curlin
Executive Director

Hickman-Fulton County Riverport Authority