



April 11, 2016

General Wehr
Mississippi River Commission
Colonel Anderson

High 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 mile marker 922 on the lower Mississippi in Hickman, Kentucky. On behalf of the Riverport Authority Board and citizens of Hickman, Kentucky, and surrounding areas, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this meeting.

This is the five year anniversary of the historic flooding in the spring of 2011 that deposited 7 to 8 feet of silt material into the mouth of Elvis Stahr Harbor. This would not have been as big a problem if the harbor had been dredged on an annual basis. At that time, the harbor had not been dredged in 3 years. The mouth of the Elvis Stahr Harbor had collected 13 to 15 feet of silt material in that 3 year period. It took over 20 days to dredge the harbor, and this did not include the dredging of the turning basin. Had it not been for the Disaster Relief Act funds, the harbor would have been shut down for 6 months or more.

The Hickman-Fulton County Riverport Authority was informed by the Memphis District of the Army Corps of Engineers on February 11, 2016, that funding for dredging the Elvis Stahr Harbor was included in the USACE FY 2016 Work Plan. The Memphis District office of the Army Corps of Engineers expects to perform dredging this summer. We are very pleased to hear that the Elvis Stahr Harbor was again included in the Corps work plan for dredging.

The amount of the funding allotted to the Elvis Stahr Harbor is \$665,000. The Corps of Engineers noted that this will not dredge the entire harbor. To fully dredge the harbor and the turning basin, the Corps has requested \$1,825,000 for 2017. The last time the Elvis Stahr Harbor was fully dredged from the mouth of the harbor to the end of the turning basin was in 2009 with ARRA Funds.

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 also like to thank Colonel Anderson and the staff of the Memphis District of the Army Corp of Engineers. They are extremely helpful in making sure that the planning for dredging and actual dredging is completed in a timely and professional manner.

Thank you again for your time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Curlin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Greg Curlin
Executive Director
Hickman-Fulton County Riverport Authority