



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

November 2, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Sylvia Mathews

FROM: Lisa Kountoupes and Adrienne Erbach

SUBJECT: Status of Funding for Priority Delta and Arkansas Projects

In preparation for your trip to Arkansas, we have put together a summary of the status of a number of high priority projects in the Delta and Arkansas.

- **Delta Regional Authority (DRA)** –Your budget included a request for \$30 million to fund the establishment of the DRA. Through your efforts, the FY2001 Energy and Water appropriations bill includes \$20 million for this purpose.

As you know, Senator Lincoln and Representative Berry have introduced legislation to authorize this funding in the House and Senate. There are bipartisan cosponsors of each bill, but Majority Leader Lott has been circumspect in his support. Efforts to add the authorization to the Labor/HHS appropriations bill were shut down by Chairmen Young and Stevens because of perceived lack of Republican support. However, after considerable work by Senator Lincoln, Representative Berry, and Representative Joanne Emerson (R-MO), Senator Lott's staff developed a substitute to the Lincoln bill. We need to get a commitment from Senator Lott regarding where and how this will be passed by the Congress at the end of the session.

There appear to be no "show stoppers" in Lott's counter offer, and we view this as a very encouraging step toward actually getting this done. We are working through Senator Lincoln's office to see if we can modify some of his suggestions. A significant concern is that he proposes limiting the authorization to 2 years, instead of the 5 that you support. We believe that two years is not enough time to get a new entity up and running and for it to establish an adequate track record for evaluating its work. While we would prefer a five-year authorization, we would agree to a four-year authorization to at least carry the DRA through the next Administration.

Additionally, the Justice Department advises that Senator Lott's language in establishing the DRA is unconstitutional because it vests significant governmental authority (i.e. authority to provide grants) in members of a federal entity who are not federal officials. Lott's language would change voting procedures to require a majority vote of the 8

Authority members (7 States + Federal Co-Chairperson). The language as proposed weighs the Federal Co-Chairperson's vote equally with that of an Individual State representative and practically speaking could permit a majority of the State representatives to overrule the decisions of the Federal Co-Chair.

Under the ARC model, which Lincoln and Berry followed, decisions regarding the adoption of plans and strategies by the Commission require an affirmative vote of the Federal Co-Chairperson and of a majority of the 7 State members. Furthermore under ARC's model, the Federal Co-Chairperson, a duly appointed Federal Official, has control over Federal funds used for grants. The Federal Co-Chair is focused on the entire region whereas governors, by the nature of their position, must be focused on their individual states. We support the ARC model because we believe it has enabled the ARC to be successful under seven Administrations from both political parties.

- **Other Delta Regional Initiative programs –**
 - **Great River Bridge/I-69:** Of the \$25 million requested for this bridge, \$8 million is provided in the Transportation bill.
 - **Other Transportation Funding:** You had requested an additional \$44 million for transit and other projects in the Delta. The final appropriation includes \$222 million for various highway and transit projects, including a large number of unrequested projects. The project targeted to receive the most funding is the US 82 bridge at Greenville (\$100 million). In Arkansas, \$10 million is provided for the US 63 to Jonesboro highway project and \$1.1 million is provided for the Little Rock Rivermarket/College Station livable communities transit project.
 - **USDA's Economic Development Programs –** \$6 million, the full request, is provided for USDA programs to support rural businesses.
 - **Other –** At this time we do not have specific confirmation that funding for the Delta was included in Labor's Dislocated Worker Program (\$5 million), HHS' Rural Health Outreach program (\$7 million) or Commerce's Economic Development Agency (\$10 million), but in all three cases sufficient funding appears to be available to allow the Secretaries to fund the requests for the Delta. The \$22 million in funding requested for HUD programs is not funded, and it appears the Education funding (\$10 million) is not provided.
- **Little Rock Air Force Base –** \$25 million for a new C130J simulator at the Little Rock Air Force Base as well as funding to upgrade other C130 simulators is included in the Defense appropriations bill. Also, \$8 million, as requested, is included for a C130 squadron operations/aircraft maintenance unit. The C130J is the next generation model of the C130 airplane.
- **Other Military Construction funding –** Full funding (\$18 million) for a Quality Evaluation Facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal is provided as requested in the budget. The facility will replace an existing facility that is used to produce and distribute small batch chemical and biological defense equipment. In addition, at the Little Rock Air Force Base, the new \$9.1 million fitness center included in the budget and a \$2.75 million child care facility requested by Senator Lincoln and Rep Synder are also funded.

- **Water Projects** – Funding is provided for all of the water projects requested in the budget for Arkansas:
 - Grand Prairie – \$20.3 million, an increase of \$6 million over FY 2000 and a \$2.5 million decrease from the request
 - Bayou Meto – \$6.5 million, as requested
 - L’Anguille River – \$750,000, as requested
 - Eight Mile Creek – \$2.1 million, as requested
 - Bouef Tensas – \$2.4 million, as requested
 - Helena and vicinity – \$2.45 million, as requested
 - Red River Emergency Bank Protection – \$4 million (not requested)
- **Interior projects** – As requested, \$300,000 for operations is provided for the **Central High School National Historic Site** (a \$225,000 increase over FY 2000). In addition, at least \$1.5 million is expected to be available for Central High School through the Save America’s Treasures program. Finally, an unrequested earmark of \$3 million is provided for the rehabilitation of bath houses at the Hot Springs National Park.
- **Forest City Prison Expansion** – The latest draft conference agreement for the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill includes \$96 million, as requested, for the expansion of the Forest City Prison.
- **Nutrition and Agricultural Research** – \$5 million is provided for the Arkansas Children’s Hospital for nutrition research, an increase of \$1 million over FY 2000, but \$3 million less than the request. As requested in the budget, funding is also provided for the Dale Bumpers Rice Research Center and the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center.
- **Delta Center for Agriculture and the Environment** – No funding is provided in the FY 2001 appropriations. OMB and WHLA are working with USDA to identify existing resources to fund planning activities for the Center.
- **Diane Blair Center** – Although our information on what projects are included in the Labor/HHS appropriations bill is sketchy, we believe that funding for the Diane Blair Center will be included. Our understanding is that House Republicans objected, but it is on Representative Obey’s Democratic project list. We are following up. Though it seems that he did not assist in any way and funding for the Center is not yet in the bill, Representative Dickey may have already taken steps to claim credit for this funding.

cc. Nancy Hernreich
 Maria Echaveste
 Lynn Cutler
 Bob Nash



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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND
BUDGET**



*725 17th Street, N.W. Room 9215
Washington, D.C. 20503
Phone number (202) 395-3914
Fax number (202) 395-1150*

DATE: 10-30-2000

PLEASE DELIVER TO: Irene Bueno

PHONE #: _____ FAX #: 456-1907

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover page): 6 pp

FROM: _____

Randy Lyon, Commerce Branch Chief x55800

Jennifer Baffi	x53452	_____	Anne Stauffer	x57224	_____
Kimberley Luczynski	x57870	_____	Stephen Suh	x53801	_____
Yvonne McCoy	x57570	_____	Vernetta Tanner	x53494	_____
Ken Schwartz / Beatrice Reaud	x51099	<u>X</u>			
Gary Reisner	x56131	_____			

Comments:

Per your request

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION

State	Project	Conference
FHWA		
Ferry Boats and Ferry Terminal Facilities		
MS	Dorena Ferry Mississippi River Crossing, Mississippi	500,000
ITS Deployment		
LA	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	1,000,000
MS	Jackson, Mississippi	1,000,000
MS	Southaven, Mississippi	150,000
Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program		
MS	Claiborne County, Mississippi, access road from US 61 to new port facility	400,000
MS	Jackson traffic congestion mitigation planning, Mississippi	600,000
LA	Lincoln Parish transportation plan, Louisiana	1,500,000
AR	Marked Tree, Arkansas, to I-55 along US Highway 63 improvements and controlled access lanes	600,000
LA	New Orleans, Louisiana, intermodal transportation research.	950,000
National Corridor Planning and Development Program		
LA	I-69 corridor, Louisiana	2,300,000
MAGLEV -- Technology Deployment Program		
LA	Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission	1,000,000
FY 2001 RABA State Earmarks		
MS	Interchange for Connector Rd., I-55 to US 51, Mississippi	24,600,000
Section 378 (Additional Highway Projects)		
KY	US 231 from Bowling Green to Scottsville, Kentucky: construction & improvements	13,500,000
MS	I-69 Great River Bridge crossing the Mississippi at Bolivar County, Mississippi: preliminary design	8,000,000
MO	Upgrade Highway 36 in Marion County, Missouri, to 4-lane divided highway	10,000,000
MO	Upgrade Highway 60 in Shannon and Carter counties, Missouri, to 4-lane divided highway	10,000,000
TN	I-69 in Tennessee: environmental work, preliminary survey and design	18,400,000
LA	Kansas Lane Connector Road alignment project in Monroe, Louisiana: construction & improvements	5,500,000

MS	Extension of Mississippi Highway 44, including a bridge over the Pearl River, in Lawrence County, Mississippi: construction & related activities	5,000,000
AR	US 63 in Jonesboro, Arkansas: construction & improvements	10,000,000
MS	US 82 bridge over the Mississippi River at Greenville, Mississippi: construction & improvements	100,000,000 —

Subtotal FHWA

215,000,000

<u>State</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Conference</u>
FTA		
AR	Little Rock Rivermarket/College Station livable communities, Arkansas	1,100,000
AR	Pine Bluff, buses	290,000
KY	Fulton County, vans and buses	140,000
KY	Murray/Calloway County, buses and bus-related equipment	60,000
KY	Paducah area transit system bus and bus facilities, Kentucky	2,000,000
LA	Plaquemines Parish Ferry	1,000,000
LA	St. Bernard Parish intermodal facilities, Louisiana	1,250,000
LA	Alexandria buses and vans	40,000
LA	Baton Rouge buses and bus equipment	50,000
LA	Jefferson Parish	20,000
LA	Monroe buses	135,000
LA	New Orleans bus lease-maintenance	1,510,000
MS	Brookhaven multimodal transportation center, Mississippi	1,000,000
MS	Jackson, buses	1,000,000
MO	Dunklin, Mississippi, Scott, Ripley, Stoddard and Cape Girardeau counties, buses and bus facilities	1,000,000
MO	Southeast Missouri Transportation Service bus and bus facilities	1,000,000

Subtotal FTA

11,595,000

Total Transportation Funding in the Mississippi Delta Region

226,595,000

EXECUTIVE ORDER XXXX

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to bring the resources of a Federal-State partnership to the fight for economic growth in the Delta region, a region where poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average and per capita income in the Delta's distressed communities is only 53 percent of the national average, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment of the Delta Regional Authority. There is established the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) to provide grants to support community or economic development or economic adjustment activities in the Delta region.

(a) The Delta Regional Authority shall be a Federal-State partnership similar to the Appalachian Regional Authority and shall be comprised of a Federal member, to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate and the Governor (or a designee of the Governor) of each State in the region that elects to participate in the Authority. The Authority shall be headed by 2 cochairpersons, which shall be the Federal member, who shall serve as the Federal cochairperson and as a liaison between the Federal Government and the Authority; and a State cochairperson, who shall be a Governor of a participating State in the region; and shall be elected by the State members for a term of not less than 1 year. Each State member may have a single alternate, appointed by the Governor from among the members of the cabinet or the personal staff of the Governor. The President shall appoint an alternate Federal cochairperson. Decisions by the Authority shall require the affirmative vote of the Federal cochairperson and of a majority of the State members. A quorum of State members shall be required to be present for the Authority to make any policy decision, including approval of a State or regional development plan; and any allocation of funds among the States. An alternate member shall vote in the case of the absence of the State or Federal representative for which the alternate member is an alternate.

(b) The purpose of the DRA is to coordinate and better leverage existing Administration efforts for the DRA in concert with locally led efforts, in order to increase the living standards and the overall economic profile of the Delta Region so that it may achieve the average of the Nation. Specifically, the DRA shall:

- (1) develop, on a continuing basis, comprehensive and coordinated plans to establish priorities and approve grants for the economic development of the region ;
- (2) not later than 220 days after the date of enactment of this order, establish priorities in a development plan for the region (including 5-year regional outcome targets);
- (3) provide for an understanding of the needs and assets of the region through research and evaluation, in cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies, as appropriate;

10/30/00
11:27 AM

DRAFT—CLOSE-HOLD—NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

(4) review, in cooperation with the appropriate agencies, Federal, State, and local public and private programs in the region and recommend any modification that could increase the effectiveness of any such program;

(5) formulate and recommend interstate compacts and other forms of interstate cooperation;

(6) encourage the formation of and provide support for local development districts in the region;

(7) encourage private investment in industrial, commercial, and other economic development projects in the region;

(8) serve as a focal point and coordinating unit for region programs; and

(9) provide a forum for consideration of problems of the region and proposed solutions.

Sec. 2. Specific Activities by the Delta Regional Authority. The Authority may approve grants to States and public and nonprofit entities for projects:

(a) to assist the region in obtaining the job training and employment-related education and leadership development that are needed to build strong local economies;

(b) to provide assistance to severely distressed and underdeveloped counties that lack financial resources for improving basic services;

(c) to fund research and evaluations of the region; and training programs, technical assistance, and construction of necessary facilities.

Sec. 3. Cooperation. All efforts under sections 1 and 2 of this order shall, as appropriate, further partnerships and cooperation with organizations that represent the Delta region and with State and local governments. Nothing in this order requires any State to engage in or accept any program under this order without the consent of the State.

Sec. 4. The term 'Delta region' means areas in the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, as defined under section 4 of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Act (Public Law 100-460; 42 U.S.C. 3121 note).

Sec. 5. Judicial Review. This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
X,XX,2000

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10/30/00
11:27 AM

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DRAFT—CLOSE-HOLD—NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: MARIA ECHAVESTE
FROM: IRENE BUENO
RE: MEETING ON THE DELTA INITIATIVE – Wednesday, September 6, 2000
at 2:30 pm in your office

PURPOSE: This meeting is to discuss the status of the Delta Initiative both the appropriations and the authorization.

BACKGROUND: Attached is a chart that indicates where we stand on the appropriations. The authorization is part of Senator Robb's new markets legislation but not in the House or Senator Santorum's legislation. On related issues, the Delta Circuit Rider Pilot Project MOU was finalized in August.

ATTENDEES: ✓ Lisa Kountoupes
✓ Lynn G. Cutler
Sylvia M. Mathews ~~to Adisana~~
✓ Martha Foley
✓ Charles E. Kieffer

POTR got \$20 m in E/W but needs reauthorization
POTR revised w/ Housat in context of new market
Still trying to get new market, omnibus, single
Transport + Infrastructure (T+I)
DOT has spoken to Dems
State pinned out of control.

Ben told Linda get in
new market.

Chk Pursue all avenues

Worst change in veto 5/11.

Priority:

• Delta Authority

- Transportation - bridge, transit, I-67

- E/W - get more \$1. ~~By state~~

- Commerce - but new

(Marden - reconfigure to 80% mostly program)

Next Steps:

- Talk to Transport

- OM3 ~~will call~~

DOT/Budget (Work Vano)

Delta Regional Authority and Associated Agency Funding
2001 Pres Bud (\$ in millions)

	Pres Bud (Request)		House Action		Senate Action		Bill	Mark-Up Status	Comments
	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL			
DRA	30	3	0	0	20	2	E/W	House F. Senate FC.	
HUD	22	0 ^a	0	0	0	0	VA/HUD	House F. Senate NA.	
DoC	10	1	0	0	0	0	CJS	House F. Senate FC.	
DoT	69	14	0	0	0	0	Transp.	House F. Senate F.	
USDA	6	2	2	0 ^d	6	2	Ag	House F. Senate F.	In House, RCAP provided in Partnership Technical Assistance Grants; no funds for IRP. In Senate, RCAP provided in Business Programs; full funds for IRP.
DoL	5	0 ^c	**	**	**	**	Labor/H	House F. Senate F.	Dislocated Worker Program received \$1.589B from Senate (same as 2000 enacted) and \$1.382B from House (FY 2001 request: \$1.771B); Delta funding could come from within these amounts at Secretary's discretion.
DoEd	10	2	0	0	0	0	Labor/H	House F. Senate F.	Funding requested in new program which was not authorized nor funded in House Floor or Senate Cmte level. No mention of Delta funding in Bill report language.
HHS	7	3	**	**	7	3	Labor/H	House F. Senate F.	House level provides \$31M of \$39M requested for Rural Health Outreach (RHO) grants; Delta funding could come from within these amounts at Secretary's discretion. Full funding provided for RHO program in Senate, although HHS would need to assess the affect of earmarks on Delta Initiative funding..
Total	159	25	2	0	33	7			

Notes^a Outlays are 2% (\$.44M)^b Outlays are 25% (\$.5M)^c Outlays are 5% (\$.25M)^d Outlay rate is 25% or .25. Programs rounds down to 0.

** Funding uncertain -- see comments

Mark-Up Status

NA -- No action.

FC -- Full Committee

SC -- Subcommittee

F -- Floor.

Irene Bueno
09/05/2000 07:51:56 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Rochelle G. Thompson/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: delta mtg attachment

Please add this to maria's briefing book

----- Forwarded by Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP on 09/05/2000 07:51 PM -----

Lisa M. Kountoupes
08/04/2000 04:30:58 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: updated delta appropriations rack up

Delta Regional Authority & Associated Agency Funding 2001 Pres Bud (\$ in millions)

	Pres Bud (Request)		House Action		Senate Action		Bill	Mark-Up Status		
	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL				
DRA	30	3	0	0	20	2		E/W	Hse F.	Sen SC.
HUD	22	0	0	0	n/a			VA/HD	Hse F.	Sen NA.
DoC	10	1	0	0	n/a			CJS	Hse F.	Sen NA.
DoT	69	14	0	0	0	0		Trans.	Hse F.	Sen F.
USDA	6	2	2	1	6	2		Ag	Hse F.	Sen FC.
DoL	5	0	**	**	**	**		Lab/H	Hse F.	Sen FC.
HHS	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>**</u>	<u>**</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>		Lab/H	Hse F.	Sen FC.
Total	159	23	2	1	33	7				

Mark-Up Status

NA -- No action.

FC -- Full Committee

SC -- Subcommittee

F -- Floor.

Also, the Delta Regional Authority authorizing legislation is included in S. 2936 a senate new markets bill!

Lisa M. Kountoupes
08/02/2000 12:15:48 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Erica R. Morris/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: heads up sched. request from sen. lincoln

folks may remember that this request from sen. lincoln for the president to meet with mr. bill strickland was kicking around a few months ago. i sent around some material about this gentleman's work at her request. i think the read from nancy and lynn (and bruce reed) was that this was something that we could move forward on.

we had considered trying to loop him into the delta conference, but that did not pan out. lincoln's cos asked about this again and so i would like to submit this if everyone is ok with that. thanks



SCHEDULE PROPOSAL for Senator Lin

Message Sent To:

Nancy V. Hernreich/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sylvia M. Mathews/OMB/EOP@EOP
Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP@EOP
Adrienne C. Erbach/OMB/EOP@EOP
Stephanie S. Streett/WHO/EOP@EOP

☐ ACCEPT☐ REGRET☐ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and Director of Scheduling

FROM: Chuck Brain
Assistant to the President and Director for Legislative Affairs

REQUEST: For the President to meet with Mr. Bill Strickland, a social entrepreneur who operates a non-profit community learning center in Pittsburgh, PA.

PURPOSE: To meet with Mr. Strickland, at the request of Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), who recently visited the Delta and shared his vision of revitalizing the area.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Strickland has an inspirational approach to community rebuilding of low-income areas that echoes the President's desire and commitment to revitalizing the Delta. Last year, Mr. Strickland visited the Arkansas Delta and shared his vision with local business and community leaders. He has developed a model philosophy for economic revitalization of depressed areas by combining arts and business entrepreneurship that targets "at risk" youth and displaced adults. His method of teaching paired with his business of social change have sparked the interest and support of institutions like the Harvard Business School, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the MacArthur Foundation, who awarded him a "genius grant."

His recent trip to the Delta has left such a lasting impression in the minds of those he visited that Senator Lincoln is now organizing a Delta delegation to visit Mr. Strickland's \$8 million arts collaborative and vocational training facility in Pittsburgh.

DATE AND TIME: At the President's convenience.

DURATION: 10 minutes

LOCATION: Oval Office

PARTICIPANTS: TBD

REMARKS REQUIRED: None

MEDIA COVERAGE: TBD

FLOTUS ATTENDANCE: Not required.

VPOTUS ATTENDANCE: Not required.

RECOMMENDED BY: Chuck Brain
Lisa Kountoupes

CONTACT: Marty Hoffmann, 456-6650

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL: Legislative Affairs and Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)



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[RETURN to Arkansas Section / Monday, July 31, 2000](#)

Promised Delta programs down but not out, backers say

EMMETT GEORGE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

On Dec. 10, 1999, President Clinton made a one-day visit to his home state, stopping in Little Rock, West Memphis and Earle.

During his West Memphis stop, Clinton announced that he would include about \$130 million in the 2001 federal budget to create and fund a Delta Regional Authority, much like one established in the 1960s to assist the Appalachian region, and other projects to benefit the Delta.

The authority would be an agency through which federal funds could be funneled to the Delta.

But Clinton has found it difficult to deliver on his December promise to provide funding for the authority, along with millions in other economic assistance to the impoverished Delta.

Clinton's request for the Delta was cut to \$70 million, and the appropriation for the authority was pared down by Congress to \$20 million.

Even with those reductions, Clinton's budget proposals for fiscal 2001 have met with considerable opposition from the Republican leadership in both houses of Congress. In the Senate, the opposition was led by Sens. Trent Lott and Thad Cochran, both of Mississippi. In the House of Representatives, Reps. Richard Arney and Tom DeLay of Texas led the opposition.

In a recent telephone interview, Cochran blamed his Democratic counterparts for the budget opposition. "The Democrats have been stonewalling to prevent the appropriation bills from reaching the Senate floor and blaming us for being a do-nothing Congress," he said.

"The region deserves special attention. I've been working on a long list of projects," Cochran said, noting that he voted recently for the appropriation to create the Delta Regional Authority, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Blanche Lincoln and Rep. Marion Berry, both Democrats from Arkansas, and supported by the rest of the Arkansas delegation.

It took Lincoln three tries to get legislation for the authority moving

3/3/2000

through Congress. She reintroduced the bill as an amendment to an energy and water bill before the Senate. The \$20 million appropriation still has to receive Senate authorization.

"As a daughter of the Mississippi Delta, I've made it my priority to see that the region is brought on par with the economic prosperity being experienced in other parts of the United States. With the authorizing language in this bill and support of the White House, the Delta Regional Authority can become a reality," Lincoln said.

If it is created, the authority would fuel development of the 219-county Mississippi Delta region, which includes parts of seven states. It would affect 52 of Arkansas' 75 counties.

An estimated 8.3 million people live in the region.

Clinton hopes the authority will encourage private-sector investment through tax incentives, loans for business expansion and the creation of empowerment zones.

Clinton has been keenly interested in Delta development since his terms as governor of Arkansas. In 1990, he was chairman of the Delta Regional Commission, which published a landmark 10-year plan for economic revitalization of the region.

Having a Delta Regional Authority would eliminate the need to seek authorizations every time Congress wants to appropriate money for Delta projects.

State Sen. Kevin Smith, D-Stuttgart, who helped form the Delta Caucus of lawmakers, said the authority will help attract money to the region, including private investment. Smith said the Delta lags behind other regions of the country -- including Appalachia and areas where large numbers of American Indians live.

Berry, who hopes the authority will have headquarters in Arkansas, said it will be patterned after the Appalachian Regional Commission, which was conceived by President Kennedy and created during President Lyndon Johnson's administration.

The Appalachian Regional Commission was established in 1965 to support economic and social development, according to information on the commission's Internet Web site. The commission funds education and work-force training programs, leadership development programs, small business setups and expansions, development of health-care resources and infrastructure projects such as highway construction, and water and sewer system construction.

The commission is made up of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal government representative.

Every year, Congress appropriates funds for the commission, which the commission allocates among its member states. Each governor submits spending plans to the commission, which are reviewed each year by all the governors and the federal representative.

Then, individual projects must be reviewed and approved by the federal co-chairman.

Berry said he hopes to obtain final authorization for the Delta Regional Authority by Labor Day. He praised Clinton's "aggressive pursuit" of his Delta initiatives but said the president could do little in the face of determined Republican opposition, which trimmed his original Delta

funding requests.

"He's done the best he could considering he's got the majority leader of the Senate [Lott] and the chairman of Senate agriculture appropriations committee [Cochran] against him," Berry said. "They are just opposed to anything the president wants to do."

He blamed the problems on election-year politics.

Lincoln said she has concluded from conversations with Cochran and conversations Clinton has had with Lott that the two lawmakers will not block legislation to create the authority.

"It's disappointing that he [Cochran] is not a co-sponsor," Lincoln said. "When I met with him last year, he said he would not stand in our way. He voted for the energy and water bill. I certainly feel like neither of these gentlemen will fight us on it."

The White House has been clearly frustrated on the remaining Delta initiatives, a Clinton administration spokesman said recently.

"It's been really tough," said Lynn Cutler, a special assistant to Clinton. "We've had a lot of bipartisan support but the [Republican] leadership on these committees has not been willing to put [the projects] in."

Besides the Delta Regional Authority, many of the proposed Delta projects would directly benefit Mississippi, the home state of both Lott and Cochran, Cutler said. However, funding was either reduced or deleted for some key projects, among them a \$69 million transportation package that included funds for a new bridge over the Mississippi River, highways and \$6 million for sewer and water projects proposed by the Department of Agriculture to stimulate business development in Delta.

A White House task force has been formed to monitor Delta projects that are contained in the budget proposals of various departments, Cutler said.

"We are still fighting. This is a big deal to Bill Clinton, It's a big deal to Al Gore. The president is focused on this like a laser. We are not giving up on this until the last dog is hung," Cutler said.

This article was published on Monday, July 31, 2000

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RETURN to Arkansas Section / Monday, July 31, 2000

Promised Delta programs down but not out, backers say

EMMETT GEORGE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

On Dec. 10, 1999, President Clinton made a one-day visit to his home state, stopping in Little Rock, West Memphis and Earle.

During his West Memphis stop, Clinton announced that he would include about \$130 million in the 2001 federal budget to create and fund a Delta Regional Authority, much like one established in the 1960s to assist the Appalachian region, and other projects to benefit the Delta.

The authority would be an agency through which federal funds could be funneled to the Delta.

But Clinton has found it difficult to deliver on his December promise to provide funding for the authority, along with millions in other economic assistance to the impoverished Delta.

Clinton's request for the Delta was cut to \$70 million, and the appropriation for the authority was pared down by Congress to \$20 million.

Even with those reductions, Clinton's budget proposals for fiscal 2001 have met with considerable opposition from the Republican leadership in both houses of Congress. In the Senate, the opposition was led by Sens. Trent Lott and Thad Cochran, both of Mississippi. In the House of Representatives, Reps. Richard Arney and Tom DeLay of Texas led the opposition.

In a recent telephone interview, Cochran blamed his Democratic counterparts for the budget opposition. "The Democrats have been stonewalling to prevent the appropriation bills from reaching the Senate floor and blaming us for being a do-nothing Congress," he said.

"The region deserves special attention. I've been working on a long list of projects," Cochran said, noting that he voted recently for the appropriation to create the Delta Regional Authority, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Blanche Lincoln and Rep. Marion Berry, both Democrats from Arkansas, and supported by the rest of the Arkansas delegation.

It took Lincoln three tries to get legislation for the authority moving

through Congress. She reintroduced the bill as an amendment to an energy and water bill before the Senate. The \$20 million appropriation still has to receive Senate authorization.

"As a daughter of the Mississippi Delta, I've made it my priority to see that the region is brought on par with the economic prosperity being experienced in other parts of the United States. With the authorizing language in this bill and support of the White House, the Delta Regional Authority can become a reality," Lincoln said.

If it is created, the authority would fuel development of the 219-county Mississippi Delta region, which includes parts of seven states. It would affect 52 of Arkansas' 75 counties.

An estimated 8.3 million people live in the region.

Clinton hopes the authority will encourage private-sector investment through tax incentives, loans for business expansion and the creation of empowerment zones.

Clinton has been keenly interested in Delta development since his terms as governor of Arkansas. In 1990, he was chairman of the Delta Regional Commission, which published a landmark 10-year plan for economic revitalization of the region.

Having a Delta Regional Authority would eliminate the need to seek authorizations every time Congress wants to appropriate money for Delta projects.

State Sen. Kevin Smith, D-Stuttgart, who helped form the Delta Caucus of lawmakers, said the authority will help attract money to the region, including private investment. Smith said the Delta lags behind other regions of the country -- including Appalachia and areas where large numbers of American Indians live.

Berry, who hopes the authority will have headquarters in Arkansas, said it will be patterned after the Appalachian Regional Commission, which was conceived by President Kennedy and created during President Lyndon Johnson's administration.

The Appalachian Regional Commission was established in 1965 to support economic and social development, according to information on the commission's Internet Web site. The commission funds education and work-force training programs, leadership development programs, small business setups and expansions, development of health-care resources and infrastructure projects such as highway construction, and water and sewer system construction.

The commission is made up of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal government representative.

Every year, Congress appropriates funds for the commission, which the commission allocates among its member states. Each governor submits spending plans to the commission, which are reviewed each year by all the governors and the federal representative.

Then, individual projects must be reviewed and approved by the federal co-chairman.

Berry said he hopes to obtain final authorization for the Delta Regional Authority by Labor Day. He praised Clinton's "aggressive pursuit" of his Delta initiatives but said the president could do little in the face of determined Republican opposition, which trimmed his original Delta

funding requests.

"He's done the best he could considering he's got the majority leader of the Senate [Lott] and the chairman of Senate agriculture appropriations committee [Cochran] against him," Berry said. "They are just opposed to anything the president wants to do."

He blamed the problems on election-year politics.

Lincoln said she has concluded from conversations with Cochran and conversations Clinton has had with Lott that the two lawmakers will not block legislation to create the authority.

"It's disappointing that he [Cochran] is not a co-sponsor," Lincoln said. "When I met with him last year, he said he would not stand in our way. He voted for the energy and water bill. I certainly feel like neither of these gentlemen will fight us on it."

The White House has been clearly frustrated on the remaining Delta initiatives, a Clinton administration spokesman said recently.

"It's been really tough," said Lynn Cutler, a special assistant to Clinton. "We've had a lot of bipartisan support but the [Republican] leadership on these committees has not been willing to put [the projects] in."

Besides the Delta Regional Authority, many of the proposed Delta projects would directly benefit Mississippi, the home state of both Lott and Cochran, Cutler said. However, funding was either reduced or deleted for some key projects, among them a \$69 million transportation package that included funds for a new bridge over the Mississippi River, highways and \$6 million for sewer and water projects proposed by the Department of Agriculture to stimulate business development in Delta.

A White House task force has been formed to monitor Delta projects that are contained in the budget proposals of various departments, Cutler said.

"We are still fighting. This is a big deal to Bill Clinton, It's a big deal to Al Gore. The president is focused on this like a laser. We are not giving up on this until the last dog is hung," Cutler said.

This article was published on Monday, July 31, 2000

RETURN to Arkansas Section

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Lisa M. Kountoupes
07/14/2000 12:33:22 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Appropriations Rack up of delta initiative

Delta Regional Authority & Associated Agency Funding 2001 Pres Bud (\$ in millions)

	Pres Bud (Request)		House Action		Senate Action		Bill	Mark-Up Status
	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL		
DRA	30	3	0	0	20	2		E/W Hse F. Sen SC.
HUD	22	0	0	0	n/a			VA/HD Hse F. Sen NA.
DoC	10	1	0	0	n/a			CJS Hse F. Sen NA.
DoT	69	14	0	0	0	0		Trans. Hse F. Sen F.
USDA	6	2	2	1	6	2		Ag Hse F. Sen FC.
DoL	5	0	**	**	**	**		Lab/H Hse F. Sen FC.
HHS	7	3	**	**	7	3		Lab/H Hse F. Sen FC.
Total	159	23	2	1	33	7		

Mark-Up Status
NA -- No action.
FC -- Full Committee
SC -- Subcommittee
F -- Floor.

Message Sent To: _____

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Lisa M. Kountoupes
07/13/2000 08:11:01 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP, Charles M. Brain/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Rebecca Hunter/WHO/EOP, Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP@EOP, Karen Robb/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: delta update

Domenici and Byrd included \$20 million of our \$30 million request for the Delta Regional Authority. However, it is subject to authorization so we still have to really work the authorizing angle. I have emailed all of the delta offices with this and the information below.

Sen. Lincoln has put out a dear colleague with the letters of support from the 7 delta governors and a bipartisan dear colleague with her, Frist, Huchison, Durbin, Landrieu, and Breaux on it urging support for the bill. They will also do one with the Time Magazine special edition article from July 10.

The link to Time piece <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/toc/0,3392,1101000710,00.html>

The Lincoln Delta bill is in the Robb democratic alternative to new markets. Lincoln has gotten Smith to OK putting the bill on the calendar for floor consideration in the senate as a stand alone measure. We are working on Baucus' staff to sign off on this approach. (They are the chair and ranking member on the senate committee of jurisdiction)

Still working the bill with regard to new markets in the house. it is more complicated there because of Chairman Archer's resistance to the whole measure and the general agreement to not support amendments. Lynn is working with Gov. Ryan's staff to approach the speaker's staff again and express their support.

----- Forwarded by Lisa M. Kountoupes/WHO/EOP on 07/13/2000 08:02 PM -----

Lisa M. Kountoupes
07/13/2000 06:34:50 PM

Record Type: Record

To:
cc:
Subject: The President's Delta Regional Authority Initiative received \$20 m in the Senate Energy and Water subcommittee bill!

The Budget request was for \$30 million. We will be trying to bump that up to the full amount in full committee if possible. It is subject to authorization so we need to redouble our efforts on moving the authorizing bills, HR 2911 and S 1622.

Check out Time Magazine's July 10th special edition on the Mississippi Delta.

House Transportation Committee Shuster released a report outlining all of the benefits that the

Appalachian Regional Commission has brought to that region. It is a good example of what the Delta Regional Commission could do for the Mississippi Delta. This release is from the Committee's web page:

For Immediate Release

June 28, 2000

Shuster Applauds Successes of
Appalachian Regional Commission

New Study Highlights Significant Economic
Impact of ARC Investments

Washington – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bud Shuster today released a new study that highlights the economic benefits of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a partnership of 13 states whose goal is to foster economic development in the Appalachian area.

Conducted by two leading economic research firms, the study looked at 99 ARC projects, including industrial parks, water and sewer systems, and business incubators, in its member states from Mississippi to New York. The projects studied were funded at a total of \$32.4 million between 1990 and 1997, and produced numerous benefits to the economic well-being of the Appalachian region, including:

- 23,777 new jobs directly created, and 20,954 new jobs indirectly created
- \$576.9 million in new wages produced annually by the created jobs
- \$57.4 million in various state and local tax revenues generated annually
- Over \$3 billion in private sector investment tied to the ARC projects
- 10 percent of the total job growth in two-thirds of studied counties

“The impact the ARC has on the people of the Appalachian region is evident – thousands of new jobs, millions in new wages, and other benefits that significantly outweigh the costs of investment,” said Shuster. “An investment in people is the greatest investment we can make, and the ARC has improved the lives of countless individuals in an area of the country that is often overlooked by economic expansion.”

The study was conducted by the Brandow Company of Camp Hill, PA, and the Economic Development Research Group of Boston.

7-5-00

00 JUN 30 08:52

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 30, 2000

*copied
Cutler
Echaveste
Podesta*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: JOHN PODESTA

FROM: LYNN CUTLER

CC: MARIA ECHAVESTE

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT

Indian Initiative

- Everyone is continuing to monitor this. This week there were improvements on the Senate side for the BIA budget. The Senate Interior SAP that is going up today is very strong on the Indian portions of the Bill.

IRS Indian Office Established

- The Internal Revenue Service has established a division to deal directly with tribal, state and local governments. It is the "Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division". A distinct office has been established in the division to deal with specific needs of tribal governments. It is called the "Indian Tribal Government Office" and will develop a functional and interactive government to government relationship between the IRS and the tribes. It is a direct result of your executive orders and will be a huge help for the tribes.

Technology Advances in Indian Country

- A \$43 million technology training program funded by the US Department of Education is the source of \$1.4 million in funds to the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Grants are being awarded to Fond du Lac tribal schools that will help to train elementary and secondary school teachers in the use of computers.
- In South Dakota, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College (a tribal college) received \$313,400 from the Department of Education to train teachers in new technologies.

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT
PAGE TWO

7-5-00

Gaming Issues

- In a surprise move, the New York State Senate passed a bill restricting future Indian-owned casinos. It was a unanimous vote and profoundly affects the plans for a St. Regis Mohawk owned casino in the Catskills. As you know, emotions over casinos and land claims are also running high in Connecticut. There have also been moves in Wisconsin to curb Indian gaming. Many of the people from Indian country feel that there is a backlash against Indian gaming that is racially motivated, having been exacerbated by other conflicts.

Delta Regional Authority

- We had hoped that Governor Ryan from Illinois would raise the possibility of including the Delta Regional Authority in the New Markets Initiative when he met with Speaker Hastert this week. Unfortunately, the meeting was very brief and the Governor did not get a chance to do so. Our thinking is that the money for the Authority itself might have a better chance of passing if it is part of New Markets, but Gene Sperling rightly feels that the Speaker has to agree to that.

Personal

- Thank you for the wampum belt / turtle drawing. It was so nice of you to think of me. I really appreciate it.



A handwritten signature, possibly "Shirley", is written above a simple line drawing of a wampum belt. The belt is depicted as a series of parallel lines with small circles representing wampum beads.

F41

Irene Bueno
07/12/2000 10:12:56 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Delta Conference Call

Here's an update on the Delta Call:

Lynn will follow up with Governor Ryan staff in follow up to the President's conversation with Gov. Ryan on asking Hastert to include DRA in New Markets bill.

Chuck Keiffer will follow up Domenici staff in follow-up to President's conversation with Domenici on the funding issues.

Senator Robb will include Delta Regional Authorization (DRA) in his New Markets bill that will be introduced soon. At this point, there are no Republicans on this bill. However, the Republican version does not include the DRA. Sen. Hutchinson does not want the DRA included but we don't know why.. **Lisa will follow up.**

On the House side, Rangel, Archer and Hastert - Chuck is speaking with them to encourage them to move the New Market bill in Ways and Means Cmte. **Maria - it has been suggested should remain Chuck that DRA should be included in this the New Markets bill.**

On appropriations, they expect that Lott will make sure that there is \$25 million for the bridge but not sure what else on that. **Lisa can reaffirm that with DOT.**

Wilson Bridge legislation could be a possibility for DRA and funding and **Lisa and Adrienne will follow up with Dept. of Transportation.**

We agreed to reconvene in a week.

DELTA REGIONAL INITIATIVE TALKING POINTS

TALKING POINTS

GOVERNOR RYAN (R-IL)

- Governor Ryan - I appreciate your leadership and support for the Delta Initiative but I need your help to get the Delta Regional Authority authorized.
- The Delta Regional Authorization (DRA) legislation is the most important piece of the Delta Initiative for ensuring a long-term impact on the region.
- Our best hope for passage of this legislation is in the context of the New Markets legislation.
- I would appreciate your speaking with Speaker Hastert to ask for his support for including the Delta Regional authorization language in the New Markets legislation.

GOVERNOR SUNDQUIST (R-TN)

- Governor Sundquist – I appreciate your leadership and support for the Delta Initiative but I need your help to get funding for this initiative and to get the Delta Regional Authority authorized.
- My budget for the Delta Regional Initiative was \$159 million, of which \$30 million was for the Delta Regional Authority. Although I have been working hard to get funding for this initiative, we have had only limited success, partial funding for USDA and HHS programs and no funding for the Delta Regional Authority.
- I would appreciate your speaking with Senator Lott to urge him to include funding in the Senate Appropriations bill for the \$30 million needed for the Delta Regional Authority.

BACKGROUND

Although we have been working hard to get the other \$129 million in agency earmarks for the Delta, we have had only limited success, partial funding for USDA and HHS programs. The House did not include funding for the DRA in its Energy and Water appropriations bill. We see the Senate Energy and Water appropriations bill as the best shot for getting this funding included. A call sheet has been prepared for your call to Senator Domenici to encourage his support of funding the DRA. On the reauthorization legislation for the DRA, we have been pursuing a couple strategies for trying to get it enacted, including possibly attaching it to the New Markets legislation. All 7 Delta Governors have sent letters in support of the Delta Initiative, which were included in your Delta Report.

6-12-00

THE WHITE HOUSE

.WASHINGTON

00 JUN 9 PM 5:19

June 9, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: JOHN PODESTA

FROM: LYNN CUTLER

CC: MARIA ECHAVESTE

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT

Copy of
Podesta
Cutler
Schaveste

Indian Initiative

- Due to the problems we are having getting funding for the Indian Country Initiative, we are having a meeting Monday with OMB to strategize about what we can do. The situation is very bad. For example, on the House side we didn't get the school construction funds for Indian schools, we got a nominal and completely inadequate increase for the Indian Health Service, and we are fighting for the road money. President Sue Masten of the National Congress of American Indians is coming in next week to discuss their desire to be more engaged in getting the budget passed.

JLP
begin discussion
on the

Delta Initiative

- Lisa Kountoupes and I along with Adrienne Erbach of OMB have been holding meetings internally and with DOT to try to get the funding back on course. The highway funding for the Delta was totally omitted in the House bill, so we are focusing on the Senate. We'll keep you posted.
- Governor Huckabee of Arkansas held a summit on the Delta this week to develop legislative proposals for the 2001 legislative session. DOT representatives attended and the press was very positive.

FCC Announcements

- On Thursday FCC Chairman Bill Kennard announced their efforts to remedy the problem of limited availability of basic phone service on tribal lands. The Commission approved three items designed to increase service reach in tribal communities. They substantially reduced the price of basic local phone service for income eligible customers on tribal lands; streamlined the process for receiving universal service support for companies who seek to

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
PAGE TWO

serve tribal lands as an eligible telecommunications carrier, and changed its auction rules to provide greater incentives for wireless carriers to serve tribal lands. The Commission will inject about \$20 million in additional funding into programs that subsidize basic telephone service for those who cannot afford it, making basic local service available for as little as \$1 per month. In addition, they adopted a policy statement that embraces tribal sovereignty, the federal trust responsibility and Indian self-governance.

American Indian Heritage Day

- In a highly unusual move the Alabama Legislature has voted to have the second Monday in October serve not only as Columbus Day but as American Indian Heritage Day as well. Alabama will be the first state to have such an official holiday.

OK
Lub Shirs

Adrienne C. Erbach

06/27/2000 02:06:43 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: irene bueno/who/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: Delta Circuit Rider 

OMB has looked at it and is okay with it. However, we had taken OMB off of the signature list because we are included only when we have an explicit role in the MOU. Could you ask Sean to make that change before he circulates it.

Thanks.
Lynn G. Cutler

 Lynn G. Cutler
06/27/2000 02:00:05 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP@EOP, Adrienne C. Erbach/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Delta Circuit Rider

----- Forwarded by Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP on 06/27/2000 01:56 PM -----



Sean P. O'Shea

06/27/2000 12:56:37 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Delta Circuit Rider

Lynn...I did this on faith...has OMB looked at this or should they be taking the lead on it?

----- Forwarded by Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP on 06/27/2000 12:55 PM -----



Sean P. O'Shea

06/20/2000 03:33:09 PM

Record Type: Record

To: lpowell@ocdx.usda.gov @ inet

cc:

Subject: Delta Circuit Rider

here it is

----- Forwarded by Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP on 06/20/2000 03:31 PM -----



Sean P. O'Shea

06/15/2000 12:58:22 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Delta Circuit Rider



Attached is the draft of the Arkansas Delta Circuit Rider Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that includes the language resolving the issue of having agencies contribute to the funding of an office in USDA's Rural Development state office. The legal basis for this is the Economy Act (31 USC 1535) and OMB has indicated that this issue has been resolved. As USDA is the lead agency on this issue, they will coordinate the circulation of this document.

Each agency listed below should have your appropriate contact person call or email Lee Powell regarding any revisions, changes, or comments about this document. You may email Lee Powell at: Lpowell@ocdx.usda.gov or call him at 202-260-5677. The following agencies must send their submissions in **NO LATER THAN COB, TUESDAY, JUNE 27**. As many of you know, this is a very important issue for the Preident and Vice President and we would like to move expeditiously so that this document may be signed. USDA will be circulating a hard copy for signature.

Treasury
Defense
Justice
Interior
USDA
Commerce
Labor
HHS

HUD
DOT
DOE
Education
EPA
SBA

~~OMB~~



- Delta Circuit Rider--June 12.doc

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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
ARKANSAS DELTA CIRCUIT RIDER INITIATIVE

This Agreement among the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Defense, Attorney General, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary of Energy, Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of the Treasury, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Administrator of the Small Business Administration, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, or their designees.

For the purpose of eligibility for this Initiative, the "Arkansas Delta" is defined as those Arkansas counties identified in the 1990 Report of the Lower Mississippi Delta Commission.

The aforementioned Agencies agree to abide by the following:

Management: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) will manage the Initiative. Staff and administrative support will be provided jointly by the participating Agencies.

Authorization: The Initiative will be managed in accordance with the President's Memorandum of December 10, 1999, outlining his intent for the Initiative, the terms of which are incorporated herein (See attached Exhibit A).

3. Purpose: The purpose of this Initiative is to establish an Arkansas Delta Circuit Rider Pilot Project to provide local level technical assistance in community-based development needs. The program is to be a concentrated, coordinated effort by the Agencies. The program will be a comprehensive approach addressing needs such as housing, economic development, transportation, environment, tourism, cultural resources, infrastructure, technology, education, and healthcare.
4. Program proposal: The Circuit Rider program will dedicate staff to provide technical assistance at the local level. The designated staff will assist rural communities in the Arkansas Delta in:
 - identifying community needs and priorities in economic and community development,
 - coordinating Federal resources in the participating communities,
 - drafting strategic plans to leverage both private and public resources for such development; and
 - implementing the plans.

The staff will be based in the USDA Rural Development State office in Little Rock, and when necessary will work out of Rural Development offices in eastern Arkansas. Equipment, including computer, cellular telephone charges, travel and other operating and support expenses will be born equally by the agencies.

The USDA Rural Development State Director will coordinate the requests for service; will assemble teams from the Agencies to visit communities, as appropriate, and will determine the priority for service. To the extent possible and practical, the USDA Rural Development State Director will also engage appropriate offices of the State of Arkansas in community briefings and in the provision of assistance to client communities.

The USDA Rural Development Office of Community Development and the Senior Community Builder from the Arkansas State Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development area office will assist communities in capacity and community building and with the development of strategic plans. The Agencies will, as requested by the USDA Rural Development State Director for Arkansas, ~~assign appropriate personnel to participate~~ in community meetings, provide assistance to communities with strategic planning assistance and guidance in meeting local needs, and in applying for financial assistance through Federal programs.

9. Resources required: For the most part resource requirements will be met from existing budgets. However, it is anticipated that the Rural Development State Office will require one additional staff position to act as project coordinator and ensure effective implementation of the proposal. The annual cost of the additional position (GS-12), and associated support costs is estimated at \$100,000. Subject to available appropriations, this cost will be shared equally by the Agencies and pursuant to the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. section 1535), the pro-rata share of the costs will be transferred to USDA Rural Development during the first quarter of each fiscal year the pilot project is in effect, or until such time USDA assumes full responsibility for the cost.
6. Timeline: This pilot project will be in effect for a five-year period beginning from the date of this agreement.
7. Reporting Requirements

Each participating community shall report annually to the USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development. The report shall assess the progress made in the preceding period toward the goals and objectives identified in the strategic plan, and suggesting any adjustments that need to be made.

In addition, upon completion of a strategic plan, each participating community shall enter benchmarks into the USDA Office of Community Development Benchmarking Management System, within 120 days of the approval of the strategic plan.

This Agreement is dated _____.

Federal Government: Secretary of Agriculture (Chair)

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of Labor

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of the Treasury

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of Commerce

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of Defense

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Attorney General

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of the Interior

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of Education

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of Energy

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of Health and Human Services

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Secretary of Transportation

By: _____

Title: Secretary

Small Business Administration

By: _____

Title: Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

By: _____

Title: Administrator

Office of Management and Budget

By: _____

Director