

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	n/a		E/W	House SC. 120 - no number of Delta center Senate NA. - By 2/28 issue resolved. <i>Jack will call Domenico, more likely, + p.E.</i>	
HUD	22	0 ^a	0	0	n/a		VA/HUD	House FC. Sylvia spoke to Jackie. Leave a message for Jackie Senate NA. in Delta & Indiana. Have done nothing.	
DoC	10	1	0	0	n/a		CJS	House FC. they are working on it. Senate NA.	
DoT	69	14	0	0	0	0	Transp.	House F. <i>Call Slater, tell Vasso & namon colleagues</i> Senate F.	
USDA	6	2	2	0 ^b	6	2	Ag	House FC. In House, RCAP provided in Partnership Technical Assistance Senate FC. Grants; no funds for IRP. In Senate, RCAP provided in Business Programs; full funds for IRP. <i>possible House Floor amendment</i>	
DoL	5	0 ^c	**	**	**	**	Labor/H	House F. Dislocated Worker Program received \$1.589B from Senate (same <i>M.E call Paula.</i> Senate FC. 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. <i>May be difficult to rethinking new initiative.</i>	
DoEd	10	2	0	0	0	0	Labor/H	House F. Funding requested in new program which was not authorized nor Senate FC. funded in House Floor or Senate Cmte level. No mention of Delta funding in Bill report language. <i>Sylvia will call Alex, Alex, correction</i>	
HHS	7	3	**	**	7	3	Labor/H	House F. House level provides \$31M of \$39M requested for Rural Health Senate FC. Outreach (RHO) grants; Delta funding could come from within these amounts at Secretary's discretion. Full funding provided for RHO program in Senate. <i>Sylvia will call M.B.D. - Delta Program & IHS.</i>	
Total	159								

Notes^a Outlays are 2% (\$.44M)^b Outlays are 25% (\$.5M)^c Outlays are 5% (\$.25M)

** Funding uncertain -- see comments

Mark-Up Status

NA -- No action.

FC -- Full Committee

SC -- Subcommittee

F -- Floor.

Authority

- Rep. Emerson is planning to speak to the Speaker Hastert (he attacked the Delta conference)
- New Markets Leg. - ask Gene - making it is wage + more.
Shute - splitting the Dems.
- Vaso working on Shute.
Shute Dems - want 10 year mediating (round 2 EC/EZ finding B + industrial building costs (Liberman + Shute)).
IDA - 65 billion over 5.
if you add Delta, attractive to all others.
- talk to Governors - station only.
- Ryan - Hastert - want to discuss w/ Gene.

Next Steps

- Brief Gov.
- talk to Gene
- Blake will speak to Democrats ~~at~~ re: money + also send ^{on} Dear Colleague.
- Another ~~other~~ Conf Call on Thursday.
- Conf Call of Mayors -



**APPALACHIAN
REGIONAL
COMMISSION**

*A Proud Past,
A New Vision*

Office of the Federal Co-Chairman

June 8, 2000

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Byrd:

Let me first say what an honor it was to be with you last week for the ground breaking for Corridor H. Without you, this momentous day would not have happened. I congratulate you, and I know that all of West Virginia and Appalachia thanks you.

I am writing in reference to the proposed Delta Regional Authority, based on the ARC model. You may recall that two years ago I personally briefed you on the proposal in its first form, which was to have it connected to the ARC. The Appalachian Governors expressed their concern and opposition to formal linkage, and the proposal did not pass.

This year, the Administration has proposed a Delta Regional Authority, which is the same concept but with no linkage to ARC. It would be a self-standing independent agency. We support that proposal here at the Commission, including this time the active support of the three governors who would have both Appalachian and Delta counties (Governors Musgrove of Mississippi, Sundquist of Tennessee, and Patton of Kentucky). In addition, it is my understanding that our current States' Co-Chairman, Governor Underwood, is supportive of the proposal in its current form; and none of the other ARC governors has expressed any reservations.

We feel that it strengthens the ARC to be seen a model for other distressed areas like the Delta and Alaska (the already functioning Denali Commission). As a member of the Administration, I hope that you will be able to support the creation and funding of the Delta Regional Authority. That region needs our ARC-type model very badly.

As always--and above everything else--we continue to thank you here at the Commission for your support and leadership on behalf of the ARC.

Sincerely,

Jesse L. White, Jr.
Federal Co-Chairman

1666 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20235 (202) 884-7660 FAX (202) 884-7693

Alabama
Georgia

Kentucky
Maryland

Mississippi
New York

North Carolina
Ohio

Pennsylvania
South Carolina

Tennessee
Virginia

West Virginia

Delta Regional Authority

Information Packet

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

	Pres Bud (Request)		House Committee		House Floor		Senate Committee		Senate Floor		Bill	Comments
	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL		
DRA	30	3	n/a				n/a				E/W	No action on bill yet.
HUD	22	0 ^a	0	0			n/a				VA/HUD	No action on bill in Senate.
DoC	10	1	n/a				n/a				CJS	No action on bill yet.
DoT	69	14	0	0	0	0	n/a				Transp.	No action on bill in Senate.
USDA	6	2	2	0 ^b			6	2			Ag	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	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	Funding requested in new program which was not authorized nor funded in House Subcmte or Senate Cmte level. No mention of Delta funding in Bill report language.
HHS	7	3	**	**			7	3			Labor/H	House Subcmte 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.
Total	159											

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^b Outlays are 25% (\$.5M)

^c Outlays are 5% (\$.25M)

** Funding uncertain -- see comments

DELTA INITIATIVE
BA in millions

<u>Program</u>	<u>Approps Committee</u>	<u>Pres. Budget</u>	<u>House Mark</u>	<u>Senate Mark</u>
Delta Regional Authority	Energy & Water	30	n/a	n/a
HUD	VA/HUD	22	0	n/a
Commerce	C/J/S	10	n/a	n/a
Transportation	Transp.	69	0	n/a
USDA	Ag/Rural Dev	6	2	6
Labor	Labor/HHS	5	?	?
Education	Labor/HHS	10	0	0
HHS	Labor/HHS	7	?	7

Note: n/a = no action on bill

Also, for both the Labor and Rural Health Centers pieces, the amounts are part of larger accounts, and a detailed break-out of what is funded is not yet available.

Delta Members

Arkansas

Sen. Hutchinson (R)

Sen. Lincoln (D)

Rep. Berry (D-1st)

Rep. Dickey (R-4th)

Rep. Hutchinson (R-3rd)

Rep. Snyder (D- 2nd)

Kentucky

Sen. Bunning (R)

Sen. McConnell (R)

Rep. Whitfield (R-1st)

Illinois

Sen. Durbin (D)

Sen. Fitzgerald (R)

Rep. Phelps (D-19th)

Louisiana

Sen. Breaux (D)

Sen. Landrieu (D)

Rep. Baker (R-6th)

Rep. Cooksey (R-5th)

Rep. Costello (D-12th)

Rep. Jefferson (D-2nd)

Rep. John (D-7th)

Rep. Tauzin (R-3rd)

Rep. Vitter (R-1st)

Mississippi

Sen. Cochran (R)

Sen. Lott (R)

Rep. Pickering (R-3rd)

Rep. Shows (D-4th)

Rep. Taylor (D-5th)

Rep. Thompson (D-2nd)

Rep. Wicker (R-1st)

Missouri

Sen. Ashcroft (R)

Sen. Bond (R)

Rep. Blunt (R-7th)

Rep. Emerson (R-8th)

Rep. Gephardt (D-3rd)

Tennessee

Sen. Frist (R)

Sen. Thompson (R)

Rep. Bryant (R-7th)

Rep. Ford (D-9th)

Rep. Gordon (D-8th)

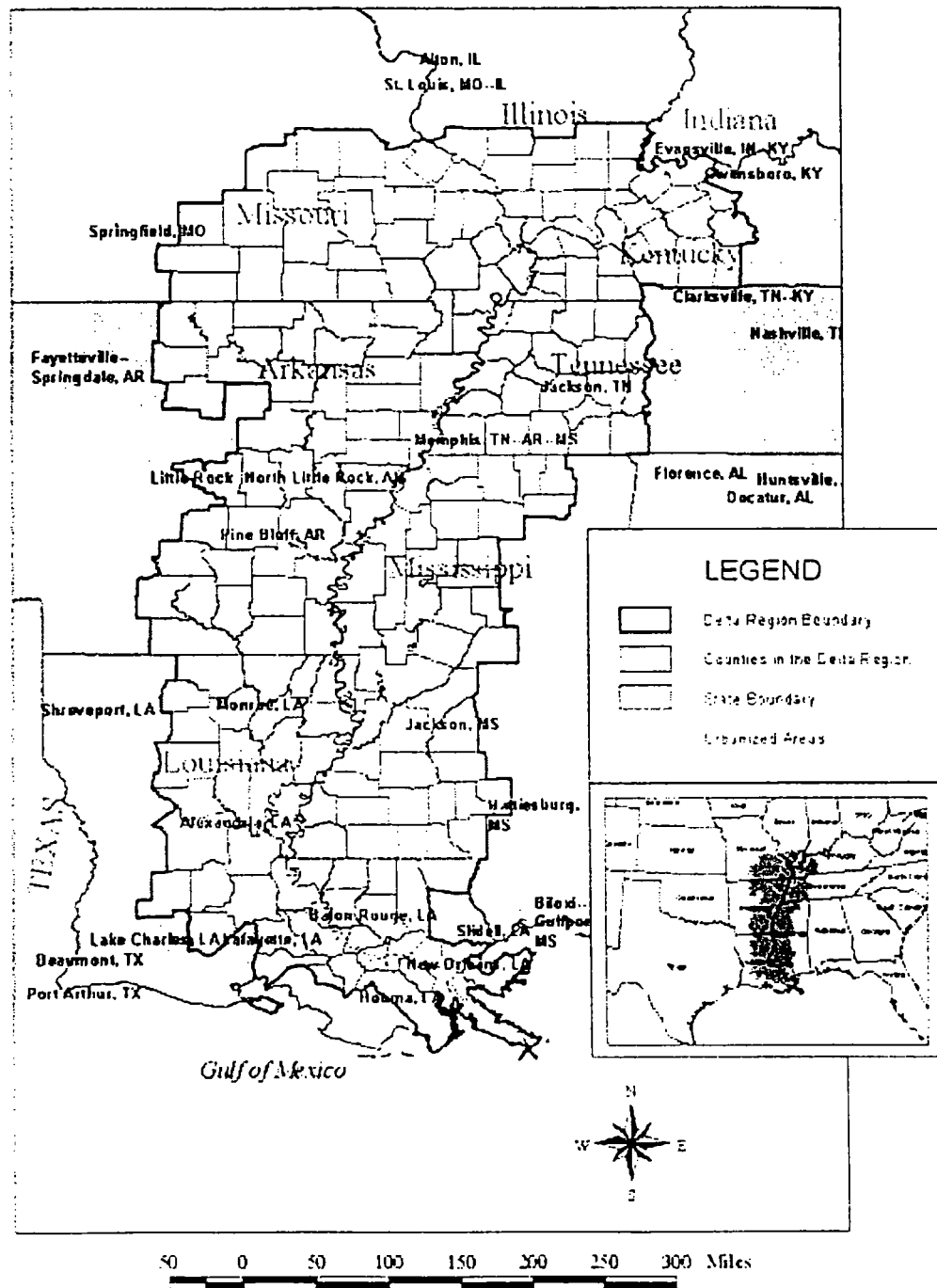
Rep. Hilleary (R-4th)

Rep. Tanner (D-8th)

Cosponsors of authorizing legislation in italics.

MAP OF THE 219 COUNTY MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION

The Delta Region



Mississippi Delta Counties and Parishes

Arkansas Counties: 42	Arkansas, Ashley, Baxter, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Clay, Cleveland, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Fulton, Grant, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Marion, Mississippi, Monroe, Ouachita, Phillips, Poinsett, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Francis, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Union, Van Buren, White, Woodruff
Illinois Counties: 16	Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Union, White, Williamson
Kentucky Counties: 21	Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christen, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg, Union, Webster
Louisiana Parishes: 45	Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, E. Baton Rouge, E. Carrol, E. Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafourche, La Salle, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Orleans, Ouachita, Point Coupee, Plaquemines, Rapides, Richland, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Union, Washington, W. Baton Rouge, W. Carroll, W. Feliciana, Winn
Mississippi Counties: 45	Adams, Amite, Attalla, Benton, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, DeSoto, Franklin, Grenada, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lawrence, Leflore, Lincoln, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Montgomery, Panola, Pike, Quitman, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tunica, Union, Walthall, Warren, Washington, Wilkinson, Yalobusha, Yazoo
Missouri Counties: 29	Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscott, Perry, Phelps, Reynolds, Ripley, Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois, Scott, Shannon, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, Wayne, Wright
Tennessee Counties: 21	Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, Weakley

Fostering Economic Development in the Mississippi Delta

The Clinton Administration is committed to bringing economic prosperity to the Mississippi Delta region and other areas of the country which have not benefitted from the Nation's soaring economy. In the Delta region, poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average and over half of the counties have had poverty rates over 20 percent for the past four decades. The per capita income in the Delta's distressed communities is only 53 percent of the U.S. average. To address these problems, the President's budget proposes \$159 million to increase economic opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, including \$30 million to create a new Delta Regional Authority to bring the resources of a Federal-State partnership to the fight for economic growth in the region. This partnership will help provide the infrastructure and job training needed to make prosperity a reality in the Delta.

Establishing a Delta Regional Authority:

Targeting Distressed Areas. The Delta Regional Authority's funding will be targeted to the counties with the highest poverty and unemployment rates, and lowest per capita income. The DRA will include:

- ✓ \$25 million for area development such as distressed counties programs, physical infrastructure and job training;
- ✓ \$3 million for assistance to participating state and local economic development entities; and
- ✓ \$2 million for technical assistance and administrative expenses.

Fostering a Coordinated Effort. The Delta Regional Authority will foster close coordination between State and local officials and the federal government, led by the Federal Co-Chair appointed by the President. The Governors of the seven member States will serve as DRA members, with one Governor elected to serve as the States' Co-Chair. This can be accomplished through authorizing legislation that has been introduced in the House and Senate.

Providing \$107 Million in Targeted Economic Development Assistance for the Delta Region:

Supporting Rural Housing and Economic Development. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide \$22 million in Community Development Block Grants to support rural housing and economic development. Funding will be awarded through a competitive process for economic revitalization and community development initiatives in the Delta region.

Improving Public Works and Infrastructure. The Commerce Department will provide \$10 million through targeted Economic Development Administration funding for public works and infrastructure grants. These grants require a state or local match, except in extremely distressed communities.

Increasing Funds for Transportation Improvements. The Transportation Department will provide a total of \$69 million in funding targeted to the Delta Region, including:

- ✓ \$48 million for new bridge and highway infrastructure in the Delta, including \$25 million specifically for I-69 and the Great River Bridge;

- ✓ \$20 million in transit funds, consisting of \$15 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants program for public transit buses and bus facilities to provide affordable transportation and \$5 million from FTA's Access to Jobs and Reverse Commute Grants to promote vanpools, new bus routes, and other transportation alternatives; and
- ✓ \$1 million from Federal Highway Administration administrative funds for technical assistance, including training on Federal programs and developing a tourism marketing plan.

Supporting Rural Business. The Department of Agriculture will provide \$6 million in funding to support rural businesses, including:

- ✓ \$4 million for the Intermediary Relending Program, which finances loans to intermediary borrowers who in turn re-lend the funds to rural businesses, community development corporations, and others for the purpose of improving rural economic opportunity -- the \$4 million represents loan subsidy costs and would support a loan level of \$8 million; and
- ✓ \$2 million for Partnership Technical Assistance grants, to help under-served communities create strategic plans, better use USDA's rural development grant and loan programs, create jobs, improve the quality of life, and build strong, sustained economic growth. These grants will be run through the Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program.

Investing \$22 Million in the People of the Delta Region:

Providing Training for Dislocated Workers. The Department of Labor will provide resources through the Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Program, which provides core services, intensive services, training and support to help dislocated workers return to work as quickly as possible. The Labor Department will partner with the Departments of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Education, and Health and Human Services to support the Delta Regional Authority activities by providing as much as \$5 million in dislocated worker grants for qualified applications from the seven States and 219 counties comprising the Mississippi Delta region.

Providing Technology Training for Teachers. The Education Department will provide \$10 million for a targeted demonstration project to provide technology training to middle school teachers in the seven-state Mississippi Delta region. Research suggests that middle school is an especially critical time for students to learn the technology-related skills they will need to succeed in today's economy. The program will use a "train-the-trainers" approach by training a small number of teachers from each school who can then be technology leaders, serve as resident experts, and assist other teachers in their schools or districts.

Increasing Access to Quality Health Services. The Department of Health and Human Services will provide \$7 million through the Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Outreach program for grants to fund rural health clinics in the Mississippi Delta region. This request will fund up to 30 new Rural Health Outreach grants, and will support a wide range of services in the Delta Region including primary care, dental care, mental health services and emergency care. Each grant will require participation by a consortium of three or more providers, which will encourage the

development of shared services arrangements among providers and new networks of care in the Delta Region.

Delta Regional Authority

Request

The Administration requests \$30 million to create the new Delta Regional Authority (DRA).

The request includes:

- \$25 million for area development such as distressed counties programs, physical infrastructure and job training;
- \$4 million for technical and other assistance to participating State and local economic development entities;
- \$1 million for salaries and expenses.

Legislation

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Salaries and Expenses

To establish the Delta Regional Authority and for necessary expenses to carry out its activities, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Purpose

The Administration is committed to bringing economic prosperity to the Mississippi Delta region and other areas of the country which have not benefited from the Nation's soaring economy.

The DRA will:

- direct its resources to the Delta region;
- assist in directing resources of other federal agencies to the Delta region;
- focus on those counties with the greatest level of economic need (i.e., highest poverty and unemployment rates, and lowest per capita income);
- provide infrastructure and human resource investments;
- fill a substantial gap in the region's ability to craft region-wide solutions to long-standing problems;
- foster close coordination between State and local officials and the Federal Government;
- be modeled after other Federal-State economic development agencies.

Structure

The Federal Co-Chair of the DRA will be appointed by the President. The Governors of the seven member States will serve as members, and would elect one of these Governors as States' Co-Chair. Applications for assistance must be submitted through the respective State member. No state needs to accept a project without its consent.

Regional Information

- The region is comprised of 219 counties and parishes in seven States: Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.
- Poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average and over half of the counties have had poverty rates over 20 percent for the past four decades.
- The per capital income is only 53 percent of the U.S. average in the Delta's distressed communities.

FISCAL YEAR 2001

BUDGET ESTIMATE

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

March 2000

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Salaries and Expenses

To establish the Delta Regional Authority and for necessary expenses to carry out its activities, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FY 2001 BUDGET REQUEST

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The Administration requests \$30 million to create the new Delta Regional Authority (DRA) to assist the Mississippi Delta Region in providing the infrastructure and human resources investments needed to make prosperity a reality in the region. The DRA will direct its resources and assist in directing resources of other federal agencies to the Delta region, with a focus on those counties with the greatest level of economic need.

The Mississippi Delta Region is comprised of 219 counties and parishes in seven States: Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. The Administration is committed to bringing economic prosperity to the Mississippi Delta region and other areas of the country which have not benefitted from the Nation's soaring economy. In the Delta region, poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average and over half of the counties have had poverty rates over 20 percent for the past four decades. The per capital income in the Delta's distressed communities is only 53 percent of the U.S. average.

To address these problems, the budget proposes \$159 million to increase economic opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, including \$30 million to create a new Delta Regional Authority (DRA) to bring the resources of a Federal-State partnership to promote economic growth in the region. This Authority will fill a substantial gap in the region's ability to craft region-wide solutions to long-standing problems. The remaining \$129 million will be funded from programs at the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Transportation, Agriculture, Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services.

The Delta Regional Authority's funding will be targeted to the counties with the highest poverty and unemployment rates, and lowest per capita income. The request includes:

- \$25 million for area development such as distressed counties programs, physical infrastructure and job training
- \$4 million for technical and other assistance to participating State and local economic development entities
- \$1 million for salaries and expenses

The DRA will foster close coordination between State and local officials and the Federal Government, and it will be modeled after other Federal-State economic development agencies. The Federal Co-Chair of the DRA will be appointed by the President. The Governors of the seven member States will serve as members, and would elect one of these Governors as States' Co-Chair.

AREA DEVELOPMENT

(\$ in thousands)

	FY1999 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2000 <u>Estimate</u>	FY 2001 <u>Request</u>	Change <u>from 2000</u>
Appropriation			25,000	+ 25,000

Area Development includes funding for regional development initiatives. The Authority will develop requests for proposals from local Delta entities and begin review and award of such proposals in FY 2001.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(\$ in thousands)

	FY1999 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2000 <u>Estimate</u>	FY 2001 <u>Request</u>	Change <u>from 2000</u>
Appropriation			1,000	+1,000

The salaries and expenses budget request is \$1.0 million which provides for the costs of the Office of the Federal Co-Chair, the Alternate Federal Co-Chair, and immediate staff, and operating expenses of the Delta Regional Authority.

The budget assumes that presidential appointments for Federal Co-Chair and Alternate will be completed before mid-FY 2001, and all staff positions will be filled by the end of the fiscal year. The Federal Co-Chair's staff is paid entirely by the Federal Government and assists in carrying out the Federal Co-Chair's policies and responsibilities including working with other Federal agencies, the Congress, and the States, and budgeting and financial management of the Delta initiatives as delegated by the President.

The following table reflects only the Federal costs for the DRA.

Salaries and Expenses (\$ in thousands)				
	FY 1999 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2000 <u>Estimate</u>	FY 2001 <u>Estimate</u>	Change <u>from 2000</u>
Office of Federal Co-Chair:				
Personnel compensation and benefits			560	+ 560
Travel and transportation.			40	+ 40
Supplies, materials, and equipment.....			50	+ 50
Other services.....			<u>350</u>	<u>+ 350</u>
Total Program Level.....			1,000	+ 1,000

ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ENTITIES

(\$ in thousands)

	FY1999 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2000 <u>Estimate</u>	FY 2001 <u>Request</u>	Change <u>from 2000</u>
Appropriation			4,000	+ 4,000

This includes funding for technical and other assistance to participating State and local economic development entities.

ASSOCIATED FUNDING BY OTHER AGENCIES

The Delta Regional Authority will foster close coordination between State and local officials and the Federal Government. The President's Budget includes \$129 million in other agencies to increase economic opportunities in the Mississippi Delta Region by targeting economic development and investing in the people of the region.

Targeted economic development assistance: \$107 million

- Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide \$22 million in Community Development Block Grants to support rural housing and economic development. Funding will be awarded through a competitive process for economic revitalization and community development initiatives.
- Department of Commerce will provide \$10 million through targeted Economic Development Administration funding for public works and infrastructure grants.
- Department of Transportation will provide \$69 million, including \$48 million for new bridge and highway infrastructure in the Delta (of which \$25 million is specifically for I-69 and the Great River Bridge); \$20 million in transit funds (of which \$15 million is from the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants program for public transit buses and bus facilities to provide affordable transportation and \$5 million is from FTA's Access to Jobs and Reverse Commute grants to promote vanpools, new bus routes, and other transportation alternatives for those transitioning from welfare to work); and \$1 million from Federal Highway Administration administrative funds for technical assistance, including training on Federal programs and developing a tourism marketing plan.
- Department of Agriculture will provide \$6 million to support rural businesses. The funding includes \$2 million for Partnership Technical Assistance grants to help underserved communities create strategic plans, better use USDA's rural development grant and loan programs, create jobs, improve the quality of life, and build strong, sustained economic growth. The grants will be administered through the Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program. USDA will provide \$4 million for the Intermediary Relending Program which finances loans to intermediary borrowers who in turn re-lend the funds to rural businesses, community development corporations, and others for the purpose of improving rural economic opportunity. These funds represent loan subsidy costs and would support a loan level of \$8 million.

Investing in the People of the Delta Region: \$22 million

- Department of Labor will provide as much as \$5 million in grants through the Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Program, which provides core services, intensive services, training and support to help dislocated workers return to work as quickly as possible. Funding will be awarded through a competitive process upon

receipt of an acceptable proposal.

- Department of Education will provide \$10 million for a targeted demonstration project to provide technology training to middle school teachers in the Mississippi Delta Region. Research suggests that middle school is an especially critical time to learn the technology-related skills needed to succeed in today's economy. The program will use a "train-the-trainers" approach by training a small number of teachers from each school who can then be technology leaders, serve as resident experts, and assist other teachers in their schools or districts.
- Department of Health and Human Services will provide \$7 million through the Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Outreach program for grants to fund rural health clinics in the Mississippi Delta Region. These funds will provide up to 30 new Rural Health Outreach grants, and will support a wide range of services in the Delta Region including primary care, mental health services and emergency care. Each grant will require participation by a consortium of three or more providers, which will encourage the development of shared services arrangements among providers and new networks of care in the Delta Region.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY
RESOURCE SUMMARY -- STAFFING

	<u>FY 1999</u>	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2001</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
Federal Co-Chair and Staff			
Full-time permanent positions			8
Full-time equivalent			5

Bill Summary & Status for the 106th Congress

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S.1622

Sponsor: Sen Lincoln, Blanche (introduced 9/22/1999)

Latest Major Action: 9/22/1999 Referred to Senate committee

Title: A bill to provide economic, planning, and coordination assistance needed for the development of the lower Mississippi River region.

Jump to: [Titles](#), [Status](#), [Committees](#), [Related Bill Details](#), [Amendments](#), [Cosponsors](#), [Summary](#)

TITLE(S): (*italics indicate a title for a portion of a bill*)

- **SHORT TITLE(S) AS INTRODUCED:**
Delta Regional Authority Act of 1999
- **OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:**
A bill to provide economic, planning, and coordination assistance needed for the development of the lower Mississippi River region.

STATUS: (*color indicates Senate actions*) ([Floor Actions/Congressional Record Page References](#))**9/22/1999:**

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

COMMITTEE(S):

Committee/Subcommittee:	Activity:
Senate Environment and Public Works	Referral

RELATED BILL DETAILS:

NONE

AMENDMENT(S):

NONE

COSPONSORS(6), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]: (Sort: [by date](#))

Sen Breaux, John B. - 9/22/1999	Sen Durbin, Richard J. - 9/22/1999
Sen Fitzgerald, Peter G. - 10/18/1999	Sen Frist, Bill - 9/22/1999
Sen Hutchinson, Y. Tim - 9/22/1999	Sen Landrieu, Mary L. - 9/22/1999

SUMMARY AS OF:

9/22/1999--Introduced.

Delta Regional Authority Act of 1999 - Amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish the Delta Regional Authority to: (1) develop comprehensive and coordinated plans and programs, establish priorities, and approve grants for the economic development of the Mississippi Delta region (parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee surrounding such Delta); (2) provide for research, demonstration, investigation, assessment and evaluation of such region's assets and needs; (3) encourage the formation and capacity of local development districts and private investment in industrial, commercial, and other economic development projects; and (4) provide a forum for the consideration of problems and possible solutions of the region. Provides conflict-of-interest requirements with respect to Authority members, alternates, officers, and employees.

Authorizes the Authority to approve grants to States and public and private entities for projects to: (1) assist the region in obtaining necessary job training or employment-related education, leadership and civic development, and business development, especially entrepreneurship for such region; (2) provide special assistance to severely distressed and underdeveloped counties within such region; and (3) fund research, demonstration, evaluations, assessments, training

programs, construction of necessary facilities, and the provision of technical assistance of and for the region. Provides the following priority for the use of grant funds: (1) basic infrastructure in distressed counties; (2) job-related infrastructure; (3) job training or employment-related education; (4) leadership and civic development; and (5) business development, with an emphasis on entrepreneurship.

Authorizes the Federal co-chairman of the Authority to use grant amounts as required Federal contributions to grant-in-aid programs for which the region is eligible but cannot supply the required matching share. Prohibits the Federal share of project costs for which assistance is provided under this title from exceeding 80 percent, and prohibits a grant period of more than three years.

Defines a "local development district" as a certified entity having a charter or authority that includes the economic development of counties or other parts of the region. Outlines certification requirements. Authorizes the Authority to make grants to such districts for administrative expenses.

Requires the Authority to: (1) annually designate distressed and economically strong counties, and isolated areas of distress, within the region; and (2) allocate at least 50 percent of the appropriations made available under this Act for programs and projects for the distressed counties. Prohibits (with an exception) such funds from being used within economically strong counties. Makes isolated areas of distress eligible for such assistance at the Authority's discretion.

Requires each State member of the Authority to submit a development plan for the area of the region represented by the member.

Outlines factors to be considered by the Authority in considering programs and projects for assistance under this Act and in establishing priorities among assistance requests.

Requires the Authority to review for approval any State or regional development plan submitted. Outlines plan approval requirements.

Directs the Authority to: (1) maintain appropriate records; and (2) annually prepare and submit to the President, for transmittal to Congress, a report on its activities.

Authorizes appropriations to the Authority to carry out this Act.

Bill Summary & Status for the 106th Congress**NEW SEARCH | HOME | HELP****H.R.2911**

Sponsor: Rep Berry, Marion (introduced 9/22/1999)

Latest Major Action: 10/8/1999 Referred to House subcommittee

Title: To provide economic development assistance and the planning and coordination needed to assist in development of the lower Mississippi Delta region.

Jump to: [Titles](#), [Status](#), [Committees](#), [Related Bill Details](#), [Amendments](#), [Cosponsors](#), [Summary](#)**TITLE(S):** (*italics indicate a title for a portion of a bill*)

- **SHORT TITLE(S) AS INTRODUCED:**
Delta Regional Authority Act of 1999
- **OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:**
To provide economic development assistance and the planning and coordination needed to assist in development of the lower Mississippi Delta region.

STATUS: (*color indicates Senate actions*)**9/22/1999:**

Referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

10/8/1999:

Referred to the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

COMMITTEE(S):

Committee/Subcommittee:	Activity:
<u>House Banking and Financial Services</u>	Referral
<u>Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity</u>	Referral

RELATED BILL DETAILS:

NONE

AMENDMENT(S):

NONE

COSPONSORS(19), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]: (Sort: by date)

<u>Rep Blunt, Roy</u> - 5/3/2000	<u>Rep Bryant, Ed</u> - 4/3/2000
<u>Rep Cooksey, John</u> - 9/22/1999	<u>Rep Costello, Jerry F.</u> - 9/22/1999
<u>Rep Dickey, Jay</u> - 9/22/1999	<u>Rep Emerson, Jo Ann</u> - 10/6/1999
<u>Rep Ford, Harold, Jr.</u> - 9/22/1999	<u>Rep Gephardt, Richard A.</u> - 9/22/1999
<u>Rep Gordon, Bart</u> - 4/3/2000	<u>Rep Hutchinson, Asa</u> - 9/22/1999
<u>Rep Jefferson, William J.</u> - 9/22/1999	<u>Rep John, Christopher</u> - 9/22/1999
<u>Rep Phelps, David D.</u> - 10/6/1999	<u>Rep Shows, Ronnie</u> - 3/1/2000
<u>Rep Snyder, Vic</u> - 9/22/1999	<u>Rep Tanner, John S.</u> - 9/22/1999
<u>Rep Taylor, G.</u> - 4/3/2000	<u>Rep Thompson, Bennie G.</u> - 9/22/1999
<u>Rep Underwood, Robert A.</u> - 10/20/1999	

SUMMARY AS OF:

9/22/1999--Introduced.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- Title I: The Delta Regional Authority
- Title II: Delta Programs
- Part A: Programs
- Part B: General Provisions
- Title III: Authorizations and Miscellaneous Provisions

Delta Regional Authority Act of 1999 - Requires public investments made in the Mississippi River Delta region (region) (parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee surrounding such Delta) to be concentrated in areas of significant and concentrated economic distress and where the impact on the region's poorest communities will be the greatest.

Title I: The Delta Regional Authority - Establishes the Delta Regional Authority to: (1) develop comprehensive and coordinated plans and programs, establish priorities, and approve grants for the economic development of the region; (2) provide for research, demonstration, investigation, assessment and evaluation of such region's assets and needs; (3) encourage the formation and capacity of local development districts and private investment in industrial, commercial, and other economic development projects; and (4) provide a forum for the consideration of problems and possible solutions of the region. Provides conflict-of-interest requirements with respect to Authority members, alternates, officers, and employees.

Title II: Delta Programs - Part A: Programs - Authorizes the Authority to approve grants to States and public and private entities for projects to: (1) assist the region in obtaining necessary job training or employment-related education, leadership and civic development, and business development, especially entrepreneurship for such region; (2) provide special assistance to severely distressed and underdeveloped counties within such region; and (3) fund research, demonstration, evaluations, and assessments of the region. Authorizes the Federal co-chairman of the Authority to use grant amounts as required Federal contributions to grant-in-aid programs for which the region is eligible but cannot supply the required matching share. Prohibits the Federal share of project costs for which assistance is provided under this title from exceeding 80 percent.

(Sec.203) Defines a "local development district" as a certified entity having a charter or authority that includes the economic development of counties or other parts of the region. Outlines certification requirements. Authorizes the Authority to make grants to such districts for administrative expenses.

(Sec. 204) Requires the Authority to: (1) annually designate distressed and economically strong counties within the region; and (2) allocate at least 50 percent of the appropriations made available under this Act for programs and projects for the distressed counties. Prohibits (with an exception) such funds from being used within economically strong counties.

Part B: General Provisions - Requires each State member of the Authority to submit a development plan for the area of that State within the region.

(Sec. 222) Outlines factors to be considered by the Authority in considering programs and projects for assistance under this Act and in establishing priorities among assistance requests.

(Sec. 223) Requires the Authority to review for approval any State or regional development plan submitted. Outlines plan approval requirements.

Title III: Authorizations and Miscellaneous Provisions - Authorizes appropriations to the Authority to carry out this Act.

(Sec. 303) Directs the Authority to: (1) maintain appropriate records; and (2) annually prepare and submit to the President, for transmittal to Congress, a report on its activities.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(West Memphis, Arkansas)

For Immediate Release

December 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE DELTA COMMUNITY

Civic Auditorium
West Memphis, Arkansas

3:00 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Was she great, or what? Let's give her another hand. She was unbelievable. That's great. (Applause.)

Well, to Dr. Glen Fenter and your board chairman, my longtime friend, Alex Coulter; and to Sandy and all the students from the college and all the faculty members, thank you. Thank you for being exhibit A for the new economy in Eastern Arkansas.

Mayor Johnson, Judge Williams, Representative Jones, Representative Steele, I think I speak for all of us when I say we are delighted to be here. I want to thank Lt. Governor Rockefeller and the other people from state government who came over to be with us. I thank Secretary Riley for coming down with us and my longtime friend, Karl Willock, who I'll say a little more about in a minute -- and Rodney Slater, who I'll say a little more about in a minute.

I also would like to this the White House staff who have heard me say now 5,000 times we have to do more for the Delta. My Deputy Chief of Staff, Maria Echaveste; Lynn Cutler; Lisa Kountoupes -- it is their job to monitor everything the federal government does that might, in their wildest imagination, have a positive effect on Arkansas and the other states in the Delta. And I thank them.

But I want to say a special word of thanks to Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln, and to Marion Berry, who, long before he was a Congressman, was the farmers' advocate in our administration in Washington, and long before he did that used to host all of us at the Gillette coon supper. (Laughter.) That's my ultimate trump card with every congressman or senator from every other state in America who tells me they know more about rural America than I do. I

say, well, how many coon suppers have you been to? (Laughter.) I haven't lost an argument in seven years up there. (Laughter.)

You have absolutely no idea the amount of time and effort and the passion that these two people have put in to trying to help Eastern Arkansas and the Delta. You cannot imagine. They have been magnificent. I deal with members of Congress from all across America. I deal with people who are really good at what they do. There is nobody -- nobody who has done a better job standing up for the people they represent than Blanche Lambert Lincoln and Marion Berry. (Applause.)

I may have a little trouble getting through this speech today. First, I'm a little tired. I talked to Hillary last -- about 1:00 a.m. last night, and we talked three times between 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. And she was kind of jealous that I was coming down here. And I want you to know she's doing great and I'm proud of her for what she's doing and my daughter is doing great.

I woke up early this morning and started thinking about what I wanted to say. It's a little harder now. I look out in this crowd, and I know half of you by your first names. There's old Bobby Glover sitting there, gave me the first contribution I got when I ran for attorney general in 1976. You could have stopped this whole thing if you hadn't done that. (Laughter.)

Mary Louise Poindexter had me to the first revival of the Elaine Christmas parade. I've been colder in Elaine than any public official in the history of America. (Laughter.) We know East Arkansas -- not we -- that's not the royal "we," that's all of our crowd here. And we owe Eastern Arkansas. (Applause.) Rodney's roots are here. He did such a good job for you as a highway commissioner and at ASU, and he's been a superb Secretary of Transportation. Carl Whillock was the President of ASU, head of the co-ops. When Marion went home, he came to Washington -- thought somebody ought to stick up for the ordinary farmers in the Department of Agriculture.

I see Ken Smith out there. I've had so many people here. You can't imagine how many people from Arkansas we've got working in Washington. It's sort of a subterranean plot. That's how we stayed in all these years -- we had people that showed up and remembered who they were working for.

I was thinking about the first time I came to Crittenden County to John Gammon's wild game dinner when they were still meeting in that -- (applause). That's before the dinner moved uptown when they were still meeting in a place that had a tin roof. And the first night, a woman got up, a young woman got up to sing, "If I Can Help Somebody," and the darndest rain came up you ever saw. And it was raining on that tin roof and it sounded like a musical background, and she was just beautiful.

Ness Sechrest reminded me that the first time I saw him I had to traipse all the way out to Horseshoe Lake and fish with him and do other sundry things that he thought were necessary to decide whether he should support me or not. (Laughter.) He's been making the same mistake for 24 years now.

And I came here today to make another installment on the work we've been doing together for two decades. I'm very proud that I signed the bill when I was in my very first term as governor to create the vo-tech school here, and then in 1991 I signed the bill that enabled you to convert it to a community college. And since I have been President, the enrollment at this college -- the stories like Sandy's -- the enrollment has increased by tenfold of accredited students -- tenfold. And that's something you can be really proud of and it will make a difference.

I was thinking when I was coming over here today, all the time I spent in the '80s when the whole state, the whole country, this part of the country, was in trouble economically, trying to get plants to come in here and save the ones that are here. When I got reelected governor in '82, I remember going up to -- I think it was Pointsett County and they closed the Singer plant for the last time. I stood there and shook hands with 600 people when they walked off the job for the last time. That was right before I got inaugurated governor the second time. I had this emblazoned memory of all these people leaving their jobs for the last time.

I remember going all the way to Japan to try to get the Sanyo people not to close the plant in Forest City, and then working with all the folks in Brinkley and other places to help start this Wal Mart Buy American campaign, to get them to buy the TVs from Sanyo and shirts from Brinkley and first one thing then another.

I have a vivid memory of what you have been through and the struggles you had, and the struggles you continue to have. And we're here to try to fulfill our duty, not only to you, but to people like you throughout the country. I'm very grateful that I've had the chance to serve these last seven years. I'm grateful that we're ending the 20th century on a high note.

In February, we will have the longest economic expansion in the history of the country -- already the longest peacetime expansion. In February, it will be longer than the one we had in World War II when we had to fully mobilize.

Since 1993, we've got over 20 million new jobs. We've got the lowest unemployment rate and welfare rolls in 30 years, the lowest poverty rates in 20 years, the lowest African American unemployment and poverty rates ever recorded since we kept separate figures for about three decades now.

We have the lowest unemployment rate for women in 40 years and the lowest poverty rate for single-parent households in 46 years in America. And I'm proud of that. (Applause.) But you couldn't prove it by some places in this country, because there are still people in places that have been totally left out of this remarkable upswing, and that's what we're here to say. (Applause.) All of you know that. Maybe they're too rural. Maybe they're too undereducated. Maybe they're too this, that or the other thing. Maybe their power is too expensive or the transportation is too distant.

I've been across America now, doing what I used to come over here and do county by county. I've been in the hills and hollows of Appalachia. I've been in Upstate New York which,

interestingly enough, will be 49th in job growth in this country of all the 50 states if it were a separate state.

I've been in rural Maine, where -- it's a long way from everything. The state's 90 percent timberland. I've been on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, the home of the Lakota Sioux, the tribe of Crazy Horse, where the unemployment rate is 73 percent. So you can go to bed tonight thanking God for small favors.

I have seen these inner-city neighborhoods where every other store is still boarded up. And what I want to say to you is, if we, with this economy, in the absence of foreign threat or domestic crisis, can't bring free enterprise and opportunity to the people and places who have been left behind now, when will we ever get around to doing it? (Applause.)

We are determined to try to convince everybody in America that places like the Delta are the new markets for the 21st century. We sit around in Washington all the time, and Mr. Greenspan sits over at the Federal Reserve all the time, and we have the same debate now -- we say, we've already got the -- in February we're going to have the longest economic expansion in history, and we didn't even have a war. How did it happen? Can we keep it going? How can we keep it going? How can we keep it going without inflation, because if we have inflation, then, to protect everybody else, they'll have to raise interest rates a lot and that will kill the recovery.

And I'll tell you one way to keep it going is to get money invested and jobs created and consumers created in the places that have been left behind. That's an inflation-free way to continue to grow the economy. So it is in the interest of every single American -- in places like Nebraska where the unemployment rate is 2.4 percent statewide -- it's in their interest for us to do what is necessary to bring opportunity to the people in places who have been left behind. And if we don't do it now, we'll never get around to doing it.

So I want to look at this. Now, let's look at Crittenden County. In Crittenden County, unemployment has dropped from over 7 percent in '93 to 5 percent today, but it's much higher in the rest of eastern Arkansas than the nation as a whole. Wages are up in the Delta, but wages are still way below the national average. Infant mortality rates are better than they were, but they're still much, much higher than the national average.

Now, I want to thank all of you for stepping up to the challenge of trying to change all that. Before I came over here, I was over at the community college meeting with Dr. Fenter and a group of CEOs from some of America's largest transportation companies. They're working together to design a curriculum and to build a facility to train young people for good jobs in the transportation industry.

Now, these jobs pay good money and there is a shortage today, I learned at our meeting, of 80,000 jobs for entry-level truck drivers and other transportation jobs that would pay an average of \$35,000 to \$40,000 a year -- entry-level jobs.

So what we want to do is train everybody in the Delta who wants one of these jobs here so that they can continue to live in the Delta. You have to travel three or four or five days a week, but you don't have to move away from here to get a job. I mean, you all know you can move away from here and get a job, but you don't want to leave.

So this is the kind of thing that we should be doing. This is one of the most important transportation hubs in the country, and education and training is the key to providing these opportunities.

In August I was here in Helena, and we had kind of a listening session, and in September Secretary Slater had another meeting like that in West Memphis. In October we invited a delegation from here to meet with senior officials in the White House, and today we want to respond to that. First of all, to try to address the unacceptably high rates of poverty that still plague the region, I intend to propose in next year's budget more than \$110 million to create and fund a new Delta Regional Authority, as recommended by Senator Lincoln and Representative Berry. (Applause.)

This will fund their legislation. It will provide funds for economic development and assistance from federal agencies to help improve the quality of life. It already has a number of bipartisan co-sponsors from throughout the Delta, and I want to work with the Congress, and particularly with all the members from this region, to ensure that we get quick enactment of this legislation. This should not be a partisan issue. This is about economics. (Applause.)

Second, we're going to help rural communities again access the myriad of federal programs that already exist. Today I am signing a memorandum directing 14 federal agencies to provide comprehensive technical assistance to the region in a pilot program we're calling the Circuit Rider Project. You know, preachers and judges used to ride circuits and go from town to town. That's what the Agricultural Extension Service did for decades -- seeing people one on one.

It is almost impossible for a little town to be able to afford -- to find out what kinds of grants they could be eligible for in every conceivable federal agency, much less how to apply for them and get them. So we want to organize that effort and bring them to you.

I'd like to thank Wilbur Pier (phonetic) and the others at the Agriculture Department who have been involved in our rural economic development issues. I want to thank all the departments for agreeing to do this. We're going to get out there, be aggressive, and try to bring the benefits of the federal government that's already being paid for to the people who are paying, but not getting -- and the Circuit Rider Project will work, I think. (Applause.)

Third, we're announcing the creation of a \$16 million fund to provide resources to develop and improve rural health infrastructure in the seven counties served by the Arkansas Health Education Center, including Crittenden County -- funds used to make loans to hospitals, clinics and health providers to help close the health care gaps that are also a problem here and a problem in attracting new investment.

Fourth, we're announcing an award of \$1.2 million from the Economic Development Administration to the Blytheville-Gosnell Regional Airport Authority to create a 35,000 square foot mail sort facility out of one of the former hangars at Eaker Air Force Base. (Applause.) This will help create more than 350 new jobs. (Applause.) It will create more than 350 new jobs and protect some that are already there.

Finally, we're expanding trade opportunities in the region by opening a Commerce Department rural export office at Mid-South Community College to help East Arkansas businesses take advantages of export opportunities through E-Commerce. This is no idle thing. I was out in Los Angeles the other day and I went to a training facility where a young man was in a program buying and selling things in South America, in Russia, and you wouldn't believe where else -- in this poor inner-city neighborhood, he was making a living, he established a business identifying people in other countries that needed to buy things and identifying people in third countries who had them, and putting them together.

We can sell a lot of the things produced in East Arkansas all over the world if we have the right kind of networks. And one of the things that -- we just had last week a conference at the White House, bringing in big executives in the communications business all over America to try to figure out how to close the so-called "digital divide," because if you look at the places where not only computer usage but Internet access is roughly as dense as telephone access, they're growing faster.

And one of the things that I am determined to do is to finish the job of getting all of our schools and libraries and hospitals connected to the Internet so that all of our kids will have access to that education information. But we need to make that available for adults, too, in commercial centers so that no part of the country is denied these economic opportunities.

I'll bet you there are people here -- and I'll just give you one example -- I'll bet there are people in this audience who have bought something off the web from e-Bay. Have you ever used e-Bay? I see some of you nodding. I'll tell you an interesting thing. I was out with the e-Bay people in California a couple weeks ago and they told me there are now 20,000 Americans, including many former welfare recipients, who are making a living on e-Bay. They don't work for e-Bay; they make a living buying and selling on e-Bay because it's basically America's trading mart now on the Internet.

It is very, very important that we bring the benefits of e-commerce to the poorest parts of America and to teach people how to use it. It's simple. It's getting increasingly user-friendly. It's about gotten to where even I can figure it out. (Laughter.) And I think it is profoundly important.

Finally, I want to ask you one thing that I want you to do for us -- for me and for Senator Lincoln and for Congressman Berry. I'm trying to pass a couple of simple bills in Washington. I got two of them actually passed to provide some funds for my so-called New Market Initiative. But what I'm trying to do is to get money, tax credits and tax incentives basically so that I can say to anybody in American, we think you should have the same financial incentives to invest in

the poor areas of America that you now have to invest in the poor areas of Latin America, or Africa or Asia or any other part of the world. (Applause.)

Now, I hope and pray I'll be able to pass that this year. We have more bipartisan support for this endeavor than we've ever had before.

I went to Chicago the other night with the Speaker of the House. And we met with the two local members of Congress who were there. We had a great, joint meeting. And there is a chance we can just totally put this beyond politics. But if you think about it, sure there are some extra risks in going to an extremely rural area where the average education level may not be as high as it is in some other places. But it's not as great as the risk of going thousands of miles from home.

I'm not against asking Americans to help the people of Africa and Latin America and Asia. I'm all for them. We just passed through the Congress a bill forgiving the debt of some of the poorest countries in the world that can't pay it back anyway, and all we're doing is keeping them mired in poverty. We can't educate their kids or vaccinate them or do anything else, because they spend all their money paying interest on the debt, and they never make any headway. I'm all for that.

But I think we have areas in the country, as prosperous as we are now, and we still have areas as poor as some of our areas are, it is wrong not to give the same incentives to invest there, whether it is the Delta, or Appalachia, or the Indian reservations. (Applause.) So I want you to help me do that.

I want you to help make sure every member of this congressional delegation votes for that legislation. I want you to help make sure anybody you can reach in Tennessee or Mississippi votes for that legislation, and I want you to tell people that the dignity of the job and of a thriving community has nothing to do with party politics. And every American ought to be entitled to it, and if we can't do it now, we will never get around to it, because we are more prosperous now than we have ever been. (Applause.)

We'll keep working at it every day to the last hour of the last day of our term. When I come home and set up my library and public policy center, I'll keep working at it some more. I'll always be doing this. I'll always be indebted to the Delta.

When I was a young college student and I used to drive back home from Washington, I used to take off a day every Christmas vacation and just drive to the Delta and ride around. I never knew I would be governor, much less president, and I was just fascinated with it. But I always promised myself if I could do anything about it, I would.

I never will forget the first time I ran for governor and I discovered how many communities over here had no water and sewer. And we tried to do something about it. I don't even know if I can tell this story -- the most emotional moment I ever had in all the years I was in government in Arkansas occurred when I was running for reelection as governor in 1982. And there was a big meeting in a barbecue joint in Forest City of all the black leaders in the Delta. And they were trying to decide whether they were going to be for me or not. I had just

gotten beat two years before, when I had the distinction of becoming the youngest former governor in American history, with very limited career prospects. (Laughter.) And no one in Arkansas had ever been governor and then defeated and then reelected again; it had never happened before.

So they were having this meeting, and an articulate young lawyer, whom I still know well, got up and said -- I was there and one of my opponents had been there and he had left -- so this young lawyer got up and said, you know, Governor Clinton was a good governor; we can't be for him, he's a loser. And we've got to win, we can't afford to lose. And he had a point. (Laughter.) I mean, I had lost and no one had ever been elected, defeated and reelected again.

I wouldn't be here today if this meeting turned out that way, in the Delta. I'm telling you, my whole life since then was riding on the outcome of what these 85 people in this barbecue joint were going to do.

Wilbur is smiling. He knows all this -- I don't know if I can tell this story. And you could feel the tone of the meeting go cold. And all of a sudden, this guy stands up in the back, named John Lee Wilson, who was the mayor of a little town called Haines, Arkansas -- 150 people. He's not alive anymore. I'd give the world and all if he were here today. John Lee was in jeans and a white tee-shirt. He wasn't a lawyer. He weighed about 300 pounds -- on his light days. (Laughter.) He had arms bigger around than my neck. And he said, the young lawyer might have had a point, but all he knew about this whole deal was that before I became governor the first time, sewage was running open in the streets of Haines and the children were sick. And after I had served, they weren't sick anymore.

And he said, if we don't stick with people who stick with us, what kind of people will we be. He said, Governor Clinton may be going down, but I'd rather go down with him than run off from him. And they all -- (applause.) And the room changed again. And the Delta stayed with me and the rest is history.

I owe you, and I owe the memory of John Lee Wilson, whom I revered and loved and remember to this day. And I'll do my best to be faithful. Thank you. (Applause.)

END 3:27 P.M. CST

NO. 4500 P. 4/8
M E.
May 31, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 215 words

HEADLINE: Lott cautions Delta Authority

DATELINE: CLEVELAND, Miss.

BODY:

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said he favors an initiative to jump-start the Mississippi Delta's economy, but warned the program could fail if it were "eaten up with bureaucracy."

"I want to make sure it's going to go to entities that will make sure it's done honestly," Lott, R-Miss., told a crowd Tuesday at the Cleveland Country Club.

"I want to draw them a line and show them where the Delta is. I always thought it was pretty obvious: you come down off the hills, and it gets flat."

President Clinton's \$30 million proposal for a Delta Regional Authority would be modeled on the Appalachian Regional Commission, which serves 13 states and helps alleviate poverty and economic blight.

The proposed Delta authority would include parts of seven states: Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois.

Lott has neither endorsed nor announced his opposition to the White House proposal. During remarks Tuesday, he said "I'm certainly going to be willing to take a very close look at it, and be supportive where I can."

"One of the things I learned years ago, once you say yes or no, you're hooked," Lott said. "But if you work on a program and have influence on it, then when you do make a decision it can make a real difference."

Governors' Statements

Governor Mike Huckabee Republican, Arkansas

I've asked 12 Arkansans to serve on the Governor's Arkansas Delta Development Initiative work group. This work group will join key state agency directors and legislators in recommending legislation needed to address the social and economic needs of the Arkansas Delta. The main goal of the ADDI work group is to develop legislation for the 2001 legislative session that will improve the quality of life and eliminate poverty in the 42 Arkansas counties that were part of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Act. The Delta region has enormous natural resources as well as a deep cultural heritage. The land in the Delta was once the most productive in the state because of abundant timber, water and other natural resources. Delta residents have always faced the hardship of poverty with a strong work ethic and eternal hope. I'm committed to helping them gain the tools needed to further improve education, health care, economic development, housing and transportation. The ADDI work group will be the first state legislative effort addressing significant issues in the Delta, and it will be designed to complement federal initiatives.

The Delta is not a rich area if your way of measuring things consists of looking at statistics on per capita income and median family income. But the region is rich in so many other, more important ways. It's an area where families are still a vital part of the social fabric, a place where grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts and uncles often are still close by. It's an area where going to church on Sunday is still considered the norm rather than the exception. It's second nature in the Delta for parents to leave work early to watch their children perform in school plays, play in the band or compete on the football team. It's not considered unusual to check on your neighbors there and pick up their mail and newspapers when they're out of town. People in the Delta have a strong sense of history, a sense of continuity, a sense of place.

Now, we must build on those strengths. We can't alter our past. We can, however, set the stage for a prosperous future in the Delta. If those of us in public service will provide the proper leadership, Delta residents will work together to pull themselves up in the national rankings. For too long, officeholders have been guilty of looking to the next election rather than the next generation. We must now look more than two or three years down the road. We must do things that will make one of the unhealthiest populations

in the country one of the healthiest. We must also find ways to attract high-tech, knowledge-based industries to the Delta and prepare our people for the kinds of jobs that won't be leaving for south of the border. We must bring the Delta out of poverty and not just repeat the empty rhetoric Delta

residents have grown tired of hearing. The problems of the Delta no longer can be ignored by any American, no matter where he or she might live. A lot of this will take time. Politicians like to be able to point to concrete accomplishments—buildings constructed, roads built—and some of these efforts might not be noticed until today's Delta children become healthy, contributing adults. What we must convince ourselves of is that a much better Delta is not beyond our reach. We have the ability to make changes that will allow us in our old age to look back at

this period and be able to say it was time well spent.

Governor Don Sundquist Republican, Tennessee

Economic development has always been one of my top priorities. I welcome the opportunity to bring private industry and the community together to work with our federal, state and local governments in the name of economic progress.

I have seen the progress such partnerships have afforded our country's Appalachian region and believe the same can happen in our Mississippi Delta. That is why I support legislation to create the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) in the seven states along the lower Mississippi River.

During my 12 years in Congress I represented portions of the Delta region in Tennessee and as Governor I represent them all. I know firsthand the obstacles that prevent this region and its people from achieving their full potential. The special assistance that the DRA would offer is necessary for the region to fully enter the mainstream of the nation's economy.

The success of the Appalachian Regional Commission offers a wonderful model for the DRA. As Governor, I have been intimately involved in the Appalachian program and can attest that it has effectively brought together the federal, state, and local governments and the private sector. Instead of dictates from Washington, these parties have worked together to set up spending priorities and bring realistic programs to our citizens.

Economically distressed counties in Appalachian Tennessee have decreased from 37 prior to the formation of



Pillow-Thompson House, Helena, AR

Courtesy Crawford Johnson Johnson Woods

the Appalachian Commission to 10 today. Income levels have increased from 68 percent of the national average to over 81 percent. Poverty rates have been reduced by more than half.

The same opportunities exist in the Delta region, and the DRA can be instrumental in bringing about meaningful change.

In Tennessee, ARC funds have been used to bring in industry as well as address fundamental quality-of-life issues. We have, for example, used ARC funds to bring municipal water to rural populations that had for years relied on drinking water from wells and springs contaminated by agricultural runoff. We brought municipal sewage service to small towns where failed or deteriorated septic tanks seeped raw sewage onto the ground's surface. We constructed adult learning facilities that have taught marketable skills to previously unskilled workers. We developed primary health care facilities in areas where none existed.

These are but a few of the examples of how ARC funds have been used in Tennessee. The Delta region of Tennessee deserves no less. The problems that we have faced in Appalachia also exist in West Tennessee.

Of Tennessee's 21 Delta counties, seven would be classified as economically distressed under the ARC criteria. There is significant unemployment and underemployment. Public infrastructure is inadequate to afford our citizens an acceptable quality of life or the means for economic growth. Levels of health and educational attainment are below where they should be.

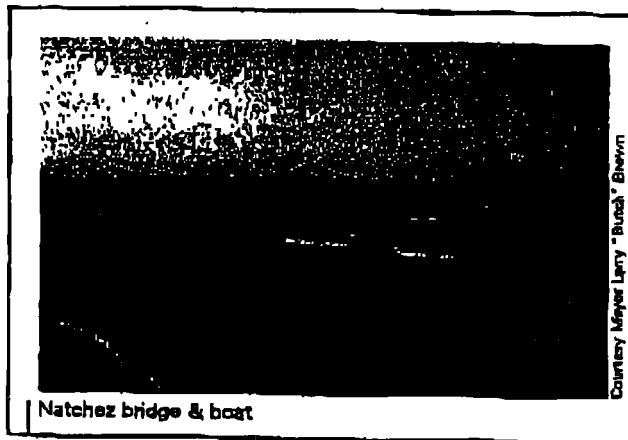
For these reasons, I offer my support for the Delta Initiatives and the creation of the Delta Regional Authority. It is my hope that we can work together to realize the enormous potential of the Delta and its people.

Governor David Ronald Musgrove **Democrat, Mississippi**

One Mississippi Delta writer speaks of the dirt road he saw from his grandmother's window—a road he thought led to nowhere. Half a century later, we continue to struggle valiantly, sometimes desperately, to see prosperity at the end of our Delta roads.

A critical need exists in the Delta for renewal and revitalization of the economic, physical and social environments. Beyond this, or perhaps more accurately stated, blanketing these efforts must be a renewal of the spirit, which allows us to build, to broaden and to bridge. In some way, by some strand, we are each connected to the Delta. It is through that commonality, we must find a way to share a newfound strength and a contagious determination that says, "we can do" in the Delta, a strength that will make no allowances for "we tried."

While much of our nation, indeed part of our state, has experienced growth over the last decade, many Delta communities have not participated fully in our newly found prosperity. By partnering with other states, and by working with local leaders, we can create community-based develop-



Natchez bridge & boat

Courtesy Meyer Larry "Buck" Brown

ment and tackle the toughest challenges facing Delta counties today.

Water sewer issues. Housing. Roads. Transit. Child care. Education. Training. Job creation. Job retention. These are not the subjects for years after years of patchwork programs that provide only temporary fixes. And they are not the subjects for empty promises and political rhetoric. Our people deserve long-term solutions based on responsible, long-range planning.

To become competitive, we must develop cooperation. To promote investment, we must demand accountability. To drive growth, we must work determinedly. This is not just about the Delta—this is about who we are and who we dare to become as a nation. Working together, we can develop a road map for the future of Mississippi that benefits all of us.

Governor M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr. **Republican, Louisiana**

As all of you are well aware, the lower Mississippi Delta continues to have the largest concentration of high unemployment and poverty in the United States. This is unacceptable. The people of the Delta are a valuable resource. They have seen the Delta area change from an agricultural giant to an area of extremely high poverty and unemployment.

A plan of action which has accountability built into it needs to be developed. It is important that the governor of each state in the Delta has input into the formation of this plan on behalf of the citizens of his state. Each state should have a Delta commission to help develop goals and strategy and to coordinate with the other states for a regional approach to improving the quality of life for the residents of the Delta. Changes in the entire Delta region must be monitored to determine if programs are working or not. Without a coordinated effort, it is likely that we will continue on the same path we have followed for too many years without knowing until it is too late if we are making a difference.

Any organization selected to coordinate the activity of

the Delta should be located in the Delta region and not in Washington, if it is to achieve the most beneficial results. We cannot accept the current conditions in the Delta, and a regional concept will be the most effective in implementing change.

Governor Mel Carnahan

Democrat, Missouri

I appreciate the opportunity to highlight the issues affecting Southeast Missouri, as well as our meaningful efforts to improve the region's quality of life and economic vitality. Our initiatives toward building a more prosperous Southeast Missouri may serve as examples for addressing the issues impacting the Mississippi Delta region.

We have joined hands with the communities in Southeast Missouri to focus our efforts to address three major issues: education and adult literacy; economic and community development; and agriculture.

Education and Adult Literacy

Missouri's Outstanding Schools Act of 1993 resulted in a new Foundation Program formula that improved the equity of funding among all school districts. In this school year alone, 55 school districts in 12 Southeast Missouri counties will receive over \$42 million more in basic state aid. Total funding for the program has increased by nearly \$1 billion since its inception.

The Outstanding Schools Act also initiated Missouri's A+ Schools program. The program sets high standards for schools and gives young people the opportunity to earn a full scholarship to a Missouri community college or technical school. Participating schools have lower dropout rates, improved academic achievement, better attendance and fewer discipline problems. For many families with limited financial means in Southeast Missouri, the A+ Schools program may be the only opportunity for their children to further their education beyond high school.

Recognizing Southeast Missouri's need to boost adult literacy and improve basic academic skills, we have been aggressive in promoting adult basic education programs. In February, the U.S. Department of Education recognized Cape Girardeau's Adult Basic Education program as one of the nation's top ten outstanding adult education and literacy programs. This program serves nearly 1,400 people in a five-county region.

Economic and Community Development

Over the past seven years, the Missouri Department of Economic Development has invested more than \$71 million in initiatives to help locate new and expanding businesses in Southeast Missouri and to improve the critical infrastructure in the region's communities. In addition to partnering with such firms as Procter and Gamble and Good Humor/Breyers

Ice Cream to expand the employment base in the region, our efforts have included micro-enterprise initiatives designed to help small businesses grow and be more competitive. To help workers remain competitive in the marketplace, we have initiated skill-based customized training programs in conjunction with many of the region's employers.

Recognizing that neighborhood vitality is essential to a community's quality of life, Missouri is fostering state-local-federal partnerships to improve neighborhoods by rehabilitating homes and improving infrastructure, such as water and waste water systems. Our combined efforts are providing resources for the development of affordable housing, the preservation of neighborhoods, and a greater emphasis on building new community leadership.

Agriculture

Until the world market becomes a level playing field for agricultural trade, we must help our farmers by giving them access to capital and resources to produce and market their products.

Missouri has initiated a "one-stop" center to help boost the state's farm economy. The establishment of the Agricultural Innovation Center within the Missouri Department of Agriculture will provide information and assistance to help farmers implement new and innovative methods of raising, processing, and marketing their products.

I have also called upon the Legislature to increase state funding to further implement value-added programs, including loans, grants and tax credits that enable farmers to add value to their raw commodities and earn more for their products.

Southeast Missouri is known for its fertile land which yields some of the most diverse agricultural products in the nation. Seven of the ten top crop-producing counties in the state are located in the area. Southeast Missouri family farmers are an admirably resilient and innovative group. Given the right tools, they will survive and prosper.

While significant strides have been made, there is still much work to be done. I offer my support for the Mississippi Delta Initiatives. It is my hope that through our partnership we will continue to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of the people and communities in Southeast Missouri and the Mississippi Delta region.

Governor George H. Ryan

Republican, Illinois

I would like to express my support for the Delta Regional Authority Act (SR1622, HR 2911).

This legislation establishes the Delta Regional Authority to serve the needs of the 219 counties situated within the Lower Mississippi Delta region. Illinois is home to 18 counties within that region. All of the Delta counties, not just those in Illinois, have historically been underserved by critical infrastructure support, industrial development,

access to educational opportunities and quality health care services. The Delta Regional Authority would assist in forming a cooperative entity between the federal and state governments, aimed toward providing much-needed resources and attention to this distressed area of the nation.

The federal programs and services introduced as a result of the Delta Regional Authority would interact with current and future state agency initiatives in Illinois. Therefore, we are working to develop our activities in anticipation of this legislation's passage. I look forward to continuing to work with the President on this most important project.

Governor Paul E. Patton

Democrat, Kentucky

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I strongly support the mission of and full Congressional funding for the Delta Regional Authority as recommended by President Clinton. This and other Delta regional initiatives promise expanded economic opportunity to individuals and their communities in the 21 Delta counties of Western Kentucky.

The Delta region of Kentucky, like each state within the Lower Mississippi Delta region, has its own unique problems and opportunities. While the region overall has experienced positive economic growth, some areas have been left behind. We must build upon our successes in the Delta region to ensure that all may enjoy the benefits of prosperity.

I envision the Delta Regional Authority as a partner to assist Kentucky's ongoing efforts to improve the capacity of our people and their communities to participate and succeed in the emerging global economy. The new economy provides opportunities for those who are prepared to compete, but presents obstacles for those who are not.

The needs for developing Kentucky's human capital in this region span a lifetime. We must emphasize early childhood development, including early access to health care and childcare, as well as early childhood education. We must increase our high school dropout prevention efforts and provide more vocation counseling for our future workforce. National research proves that the lack of a high school diploma greatly diminishes an individual's earning potential and hampers the region's potential to attract long-term, high wage jobs, both of which are crucial elements of sustained economic development. Adult literacy and job training programs must be increased to assure that every adult is functionally literate and possesses the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully participate in the workplace. Finally, all of our citizens—young or old—must have access to an effective health care system.

To build stronger communities in the Delta region of Western Kentucky, we must invest more in local infrastructure. Many households in our Delta communities are plagued by unsafe drinking water provided by failing systems, or do not have connections to waterlines in the first instance. Public health is also threatened where sewer systems are inadequate or nonexistent. Very few communities in the area have access to the Information Highway. Regional transportation priorities include improving important corridors such as U.S. 60, Great River Road (U.S. 51), and U.S. 68/KY 80. The future bodes well for Kentucky's Delta region to become a national crossroads as proposals for Interstates 69 and 66 are discussed.

To address these vital issues affecting the lives of people and communities in our Delta region, the Commonwealth of Kentucky welcomes the opportunity to join with the other six Delta states as a full and active partner in support of the Delta Regional Authority and other important Delta economic initiatives.

Members of Congress

U.S. Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln

Democrat, Arkansas

As the United States fortifies its workforce to compete in a global economy, improving opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region must be among our top priorities. Anyone who has traveled along the highways of the South recognizes that poverty and a lack of industrial opportunities have restrained the Delta in our nation's endeavor to succeed.

The lower Mississippi Delta region, following the course of the Mississippi River, stretches from southern Illinois to the Delta of the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. According to the latest Census figures, communities in the seven-state Delta region—Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana—face a poverty rate of 22% while the National average is at 12%.

I have introduced legislation, The Delta Regional Authority Act (S. 1622), to build on efforts begun more than a decade ago when Congress created the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission. Under the leadership of former Arkansas Senator Dale Bumpers, the Commission was charged with studying the unique problems of the Delta region and recommending a course of action. The Commission submitted its Report, *"Realizing the Dream... Fulfilling the Potential,"* in 1990. The Chairman of the Commission, former Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, called the Report a "handbook for action."

The Report highlighted problems facing the Delta, whose economy has traditionally been based on agriculture. The Report noted the Delta faced high unemployment, low levels of income and education, welfare dependency, poor health care and housing, along with serious shortcomings in trans-

PRESIDENT CLINTON & SPEAKER HASTERT ANNOUNCE BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT ON NEW MARKETS AND RENEWAL COMMUNITIES

May 23, 2000

Today, President Clinton will be joined by Speaker Dennis Hastert in announcing a bipartisan agreement on a New Markets and Community Renewal legislative initiative. This announcement is the outcome of the commitment President Clinton and Speaker Hastert made in Chicago last Nov. to develop a bipartisan legislative initiative on New Markets and revitalizing impoverished communities this year. This initiative will help encourage private sector equity investment in underserved communities throughout the country to ensure that all Americans share in our nation's economic prosperity. The President's New Markets Initiative was originally proposed in President Clinton and Vice-President Gore's FY 2000 budget. President Clinton has highlighted the potential of the nation's New Markets in three separate trips across America to underserved inner city and rural communities like Newark, NJ, Hartford, CT, the Mississippi Delta, Appalachia, and rural Arkansas, and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in S. Dakota.

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE:

NEW MARKETS INITIATIVES:

- **The New Markets Tax Credit.** Under this agreement, this credit will spur \$15 billion in equity investment and will be available to taxpayers who invest in certain privately-managed investment funds and institutions, which, in turn, use these funds to finance businesses in low- and moderate-income communities. The proposal would provide a 30-percent credit (in present-value terms) for investments in a wide range of investment vehicles. Eligible investment companies include community development banks and other CDFI's, venture funds, and financial institutions such as the new investment company programs.
- **America's Private Investment Companies (APICs).** Just as America's support for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation helps promote growth in emerging markets abroad, APIC will encourage private investment in this country's untapped markets.
Leveraging \$2 for every \$1 in private investment, the agreement authorizes HUD to guarantee up to \$1 billion in low cost loans to match \$500 million in private investment for a total of \$1.5 billion in investments in underserved communities.
- **New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) Firms.** NMVC firms will provide incentives to increase the availability of venture capital in low and moderate-income communities for small businesses. Expert guidance will also be made available to small business entrepreneurs in inner city and rural areas. Ten to twenty NMVC firms are planned. The agreement authorizes the SBA to guarantee up to \$150 million in loans that will match \$100 million in private equity for a total of \$250 million. SBA will also have the authority to make \$30 million in operating assistance grants to match equivalent private commitments.

EMPOWERMENT ZONES:

- Expanded To 40 EZs & Strengthened EZs. President Clinton and Vice President Gore proposed and signed Empowerment Zone legislation in 1993 establishing 9 EZs across the country – **today there are 31 across America.** This agreement:
- Designates a third round of 9 new Empowerment Zones (**for a total of 40**).
- Expands the Empowerment Zone tax incentives to form strategic partnership with all existing EZs so that all can utilize the 20% EZ wage credit, additional business expensing, and other incentives.
- Commits \$200 million in discretionary investment this year for existing EZs.
- Establishes zero-rate capital gains rollover for investments within the EZ.
- A 60% capital gains exclusion for investment in small businesses.
- D.C. tax incentives would also be extended to 2009.

RENEWAL COMMUNITIES:

- The creation of 40 Renewal Communities (32 urban, 8 rural), designated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development with targeted, pro-growth tax benefits, regulatory relief,. The tax benefits of Renewal Communities would address key hurdles facing small businesses when they are just getting started -- raising capital and maintaining cash flow. Key incentives aimed at spurring investment in Renewal Communities include:
- Zero Capital Gains Rate on the sales of assets held for more than 5 years.
- Increased Expensing for Small Businesses (up to \$35,000 more than in current law for equipment).
- 15% Employment Wage Credit (up to \$10,000) for each worker.
- Commercial Revitalization deductions for taxpayers who rehabilitate or revitalize buildings in a Renewal Community.

In addition, the New Market/Renewal Communities Agreement includes these 2 provisions:

- **EXPANSION OF THE LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT:** To expand and improve the supply of available low-income housing, this agreement increases the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by more than 40% to build an additional 180,000 units of affordable housing for working families over the next five years.
- **ALLOWING FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO QUALIFY FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE FUNDING:** The initiative allows faith-based substance abuse prevention and treatment programs to qualify for federal funds on the same basis as other non-profits consistent with the 1996 Welfare Reform Act and the constitutional line between church and state.

Delta

USDA Joele Vento Biller
Wilson DOT
Lynn Logan

Antioch
Kendrick
S. 1622

Priority = authority

Shelby
Newman
App. Wilson bridge
Cannibal
DPP/DP

Update on * Need to make major push - been in the Senate

Authority - Is Lott really working on this... meet w/ Lott's staff Steve S.

* Sen. Shelby - raised w/ him as he close to the Delta.

- Looking at the program - House

Program * Appropriations - money for general or trust fund

Standard
Wilson bridge
Technical
correction bill

* Technical correction bill on things - may there. (not public)

- bill include ~~DOT~~ Delta bridge + other program.
- shld explain

No members on com or upstate

* Sen. Kit Bond not a fan of Delta but could reapproach him

State shld be involved.

Gov. Ryan IL - most active

Gov. Markabers Haas - DOT attended. No bad stuff raised.

Gov. my sent a letter to Lott. Very positive
plus was positive ~~even~~ even though not open to press. (Sarah G.)

* get copies of press, members of Congress still attended.

Agree to pursue this + educate me.

Appropriations

* Generate Dear Colleagues before the markup
Need more ~~to~~ buzz.

Subcommittee = PRI

- Delta region
members.

- old
topic
with

Sen. Byrd

- ~~can~~ still working on getting him to say something positive
- Concern ARK (Appropriations)

(2)

~~Board~~
Ashcroft

new markets

Libert spoke to Hantut but not ~~where Smith~~ is

omnibus ^{2nd} but still

Delto
mfg

Business link mfg ^{only} to ^{WH} DOT will organize - POTUS, Summels

State ARK, LA, TN, MS, IL, MO

my
Subcommittee
staff

difficult to get \$ 62 to ~~the~~ in State (working in the field)
get some report. language for planholder

Other
vehicle

ORA
Commission - EPO & for VA, AND

Security Slader

cell Shuster + Smith board
Use & Lyn need to be the groundwork for Carter

Authority

Smith involved in Lincoln's efforts

DOJ

make calls

John White (who's call) call me ~~who will call~~ call you

US DA

has been successful

House ans

knows

State Govs

TN
ARK
Missouri - MS

McE
② call
Slader

① ~~man~~ ~~man~~
② Maria E. + oppo
Chuck Keifer + Martha Foley
(Sylvia - ~~total~~ email)
short only

Adrianne Erbach
~~Report~~ White paper

Conference calls - Thursday

Delta Initiative 10/2

Bay
Friedman bill - authority
leg.
Bipartisanship - cosponsorships

leg. Update
Chuck
Mike
Senate

Sylvia wrote a legislative strategy memo

Reese issue Sen. Reid

Sen. Byrd - computer of ~~Appalachian~~ Appalachian - someone should
majority made some promise - who? speak w/ Byrd

Sylvia talk to Byrd

Mark up - in some weeks away - both House too

(1) DOT & State spoke
Lott - interest in Transportation \$69 (bridge ^{most like \$} ~~include~~) - DOT
Stevens - DRA \$30 mil to ^{can push} (board ~~not~~ ^{will} ~~the~~ ^{after} ~~study~~)

Being in a series on strategy (Vasso) ^{DOT key} - mty ~~at~~ on Mon.

Blanche Lambert talking to ~~many~~ many people

didn't need
to be ~~there~~
GHW
HWD
Bond - mikulski

(2) Authority - most important piece. \$30 million

New Mktc. speaker ~~has~~ has an interest in this.

~~Set up~~

DRA (3) Energy + Water \$ - VA, HWD (Bond + Mikulski).
I also avoided Byrd problem.

Chuck
will speak w/ them

Obligations are marked - Ark,

(4) Don thekable holding his - next week - + will attack Adman.

No one on the House who ^{will} fight for it.

- Cochran - held his & doesn't think he can do this.

Anthony
Legislative

- Vehicle

• New Mt - Spoke of Hunt. ~~Approach~~ Grant - ?

• Approps - E/w - same

• Supp ASD



DLA or DOT & PONS would be OK

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
Fostering Economic Development in the Mississippi Delta

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to bringing economic prosperity to the Mississippi Delta region and other areas of the country which have not benefited from the Nation's soaring economy. In the Delta region, poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average and over half of the counties have had poverty rates over 20 percent for the past four decades. The per capita income in the Delta's distressed communities is only 53 percent of the U.S. average. To address these problems, the President's budget proposes \$159 million to increase economic opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, including \$30 million to create a new Delta Regional Authority to bring the resources of a Federal-State partnership to the fight for economic growth in the region. This partnership will help provide the infrastructure and job training needed to make prosperity a reality in the Delta.

Establishing a Delta Regional Authority:

Targeting Distressed Areas. The Delta Regional Authority's funding will be targeted to the counties with the highest poverty and unemployment rates, and lowest per capita income. The DRA will include:

- ✓ \$25 million for area development such as distressed counties programs, physical infrastructure and job training;
- ✓ \$3 million for assistance to participating state and local economic development entities; and
- ✓ \$2 million for technical assistance and administrative expenses.

Fostering a Coordinated Effort. The Delta Regional Authority will foster close coordination between State and local officials and the federal government, led by the Federal Co-Chair appointed by the President. The Governors of the seven member States will serve as DRA members, with one Governor elected to serve as the States' Co-Chair. This can be accomplished through authorizing legislation that has been introduced in the House and Senate.

Providing \$107 Million in Targeted Economic Development Assistance for the Delta Region:

Supporting Rural Housing and Economic Development. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide \$22 million in Community Development Block Grants to support rural housing and economic development. Funding will be awarded through a competitive process for economic revitalization and community development initiatives in the Delta region.

Improving Public Works and Infrastructure. The Commerce Department will provide \$10 million through targeted Economic Development Administration funding for public works and infrastructure grants. These grants require a state or local match, except in extremely distressed communities.

Increasing Funds for Transportation Improvements. The Transportation Department will provide a total of \$69 million in funding targeted to the Delta Region, including:

- ✓ \$48 million for new bridge and highway infrastructure in the Delta, including \$25 million specifically for I-69 and the Great River Bridge;
- ✓ \$20 million in transit funds, consisting of \$15 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants program for public transit buses and bus facilities to provide affordable

- transportation and \$5 million from FTA's Access to Jobs and Reverse Commute Grants to promote vanpools, new bus routes, and other transportation alternatives; and
- ✓ \$1 million from Federal Highway Administration administrative funds for technical assistance, including training on Federal programs and developing a tourism marketing plan.

Supporting Rural Business. The Department of Agriculture will provide \$6 million in funding to support rural businesses, including:

- ✓ \$4 million for the Intermediary Relending Program, which finances loans to intermediary borrowers who in turn re-lend the funds to rural businesses, community development corporations, and others for the purpose of improving rural economic opportunity -- the \$4 million represents loan subsidy costs and would support a loan level of \$8 million; and
- ✓ \$2 million for Partnership Technical Assistance grants, to help under-served communities create strategic plans, better use USDA's rural development grant and loan programs, create jobs, improve the quality of life, and build strong, sustained economic growth. These grants will be run through the Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program.

Investing \$22 Million in the People of the Delta Region:

Providing Training for Dislocated Workers. The Department of Labor will provide resources through the Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Program, which provides core services, intensive services, training and support to help dislocated workers return to work as quickly as possible. The Labor Department will partner with the Departments of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Education, and Health and Human Services to support the Delta Regional Authority activities by providing as much as \$5 million in dislocated worker grants for qualified applications from the seven States and 219 counties comprising the Mississippi Delta region.

Providing Technology Training for Teachers. The Education Department will provide \$10 million for a targeted demonstration project to provide technology training to middle school teachers in the seven-state Mississippi Delta region. Research suggests that middle school is an especially critical time for students to learn the technology-related skills they will need to succeed in today's economy. The program will use a "train-the-trainers" approach by training a small number of teachers from each school who can then be technology leaders, serve as resident experts, and assist other teachers in their schools or districts.

Increasing Access to Quality Health Services. The Department of Health and Human Services will provide \$7 million through the Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Outreach program for grants to fund rural health clinics in the Mississippi Delta region. This request will fund up to 30 new Rural Health Outreach grants, and will support a wide range of services in the Delta Region including primary care, dental care, mental health services and emergency care. Each grant will require participation by a consortium of three or more providers, which will encourage the development of shared services arrangements among providers and new networks of care in the Delta Region.

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

	Pres Bud (Request)		House Committee		House Floor		Senate Committee		Senate Floor		Bill	Comments
	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL		
DRA	30	3	n/a				n/a				E/W	No action on bill yet.
HUD	22	0 ^a	0	0			n/a				VA/HUD	No action on bill in Senate.
DoC	10	1	n/a				n/a				CJS	No action on bill yet.
DoT	69	14	0	0	0	0	n/a				Transp.	No action on bill in Senate.
USDA	6	2	2	0 ^b			6	2			Ag	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	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	Funding requested in new program which was not authorized nor funded in House Subcmte or Senate Cmte level. No mention of Delta funding in Bill report language.
HHS	7	3	**	**			7	3			Labor/H	House Subcmte 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.
Total	159											

^a Outlays are 2% (\$.44M)

^b Outlays are 25% (\$.5M)

^c Outlays are 5% (\$.25M)

** Funding uncertain -- see comments

DBM of map

50

Huckabee hopes for improvements in Delta by next year

06/06/2000

Associated Press Newswires

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FORREST CITY, Ark. (AP) - Gov. Mike Huckabee said Tuesday he expects to see an improved Delta region by this time next year after a meeting with business leaders and others on how to pry the Delta from its decades of poverty.

"We want to formulate policy and legislation based on what's working," Huckabee said after meeting with some 250 people to discuss what can be done for the region. "We know we've got problems. We're trying to move beyond this sitting around congratulating ourselves for how much we care."

Huckabee met with members of his Arkansas Delta Development Initiative Work Group and said afterward that the group would draft legislation on measures to change people's lives. The draft should be ready by the fall, in time for the legislative session in January, he said.

The governor said he did not want to create more bureaucracy in trying to solve the region's problems but wanted to see, besides legislative changes, more private-public partnerships aimed at educating Delta residents and helping them find jobs and housing.

Over the next few months, he said, members of the work group will look at what student scholarships can be offered, where health clinics are needed, and how transportation can be made available to those who need it to get to work.

He said the group will also:

- Look at the possible creation of "super-enterprise zones" to reward companies that bring jobs to the Delta, or incentive programs that help people build and buy homes.

- Study changes to medical reimbursements so health-care facilities find it advantageous to locate in the Delta.

- Look at ways to improve the region's infrastructure, including systems for safe drinking water.

Education was a primary concern of many at the meeting, and Huckabee said the local community colleges and technical colleges can be vital. In addition, he said, the state can make sure that school districts are getting the resources they need to meet education standards.

"We went in there with a single commitment that we aren't interested in starting another program, creating another government project," he added.

Huckabee said the plan drawn up for the state's share of the tobacco settlement money would be a tremendous boon to the Delta if approved by voters this fall. The plan calls for increased agricultural and medical research, increased Medicaid coverage and the creation of health-education centers.

Huckabee said it was time to stop talking and start taking action.

"We've got to move beyond meetings and planning and really start getting something done and do a 'let's go' rather than a 'let's talk' approach," he said.

To: Maria E, Fred B., Adrienne E, Lisa K.

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Huckabee to host Delta summit in Forrest City

06/03/2000

Associated Press Newswires

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FORREST CITY, Ark. (AP) - Gov. Mike Huckabee is to host a summit Tuesday intended to lay the groundwork for legislation that could help the impoverished Mississippi River Delta region in Arkansas.

Huckabee said he will meet at the Forrest City Civic Center with members of his Arkansas Delta Development Initiative Work Group, state agency directors, legislators and anyone else who would like to come.

"The goal of the work group is not to produce yet another report. Let's be honest about something. The folks in the Delta have had all the reports they need," Huckabee said. "The purpose of this group is to develop proposals for the 2001 legislative session that will improve the quality of life and eliminate poverty in this part of our state."

Earlier this year, Huckabee appointed a dozen people to the Delta work group. In April, he presented West Memphis with a \$500,000 grant to establish the Delta Transportation Technology Center at Mid-South Community College.

President Clinton and Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater also expressed support for the college during a December visit to Arkansas. But the federal government has yet to grant any money for the transportation school.

The governor has criticized Clinton for talking about helping the region but not acting quickly to do so. But Huckabee said the state effort could complement any federal initiatives for the Delta.

Huckabee said the Arkansas legislation would focus both on short-term and long-term solutions.

"We must look more than two or three years down the road," Huckabee said. "We must do things that will make one of the unhealthiest populations in the country one of the healthiest. We must find ways to attract high-tech, knowledge-based industries to the Delta and prepare people for the kinds of jobs that won't be leaving for south of the border."

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ME.

May 31, 2000, Wednesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 215 words

HEADLINE: Lott cautions Delta Authority

DATELINE: CLEVELAND, Miss.

BODY:

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said he favors an initiative to jump-start the Mississippi Delta's economy, but warned the program could fail if it were "eaten up with bureaucracy."

"I want to make sure it's going to go to entities that will make sure it's done honestly," Lott, R-Miss., told a crowd Tuesday at the Cleveland Country Club.

"I want to draw them a line and show them where the Delta is. I always thought it was pretty obvious: you come down off the hills, and it gets flat."

President Clinton's \$30 million proposal for a Delta Regional Authority would be modeled on the Appalachian Regional Commission, which serves 13 states and helps alleviate poverty and economic blight.

The proposed Delta authority would include parts of seven states: Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois.

Lott has neither endorsed nor announced his opposition to the White House proposal. During remarks Tuesday, he said "I'm certainly going to be willing to take a very close look at it, and be supportive where I can."

"One of the things I learned years ago, once you say yes or no, you're hooked," Lott said. "But if you work on a program and have influence on it, then when you do make a decision it can make a real difference."

Governors' Statement

Governor Mike Huckabee Republican, Arkansas

I've asked 12 Arkansans to serve on the Governor's Arkansas Delta Development Initiative work group. This work group will join key state agency directors and legislators in recommending legislation needed to address the social and economic needs of the Arkansas Delta. The main goal of the ADDI work group is to develop legislation for the 2001 legislative session that will improve the quality of life and eliminate poverty in the 42 Arkansas counties that were part of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Act. The Delta region has enormous natural resources as well as a deep cultural heritage. The land in the Delta was once the most productive in the state because of abundant timber, water and other natural resources. Delta residents have always faced the hardship of poverty with a strong work ethic and eternal hope. I'm committed to helping them gain the tools needed to further improve education, health care, economic development, housing and transportation. The ADDI work group will be the first state legislative effort addressing significant issues in the Delta, and it will be designed to complement federal initiatives.

The Delta is not a rich area if your way of measuring things consists of looking at statistics on per capita income and median family income. But the region is rich in so many other, more important ways. It's an area where families are still a vital part of the social fabric, a place where grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts and uncles often are still close by. It's an area where going to church on Sunday is still considered the norm rather than the exception. It's second nature in the Delta for parents to leave work early to watch their children perform in school plays, play in the band or compete on the football team. It's not considered unusual to check on your neighbors there and pick up their mail and newspapers when they're out of town. People in the Delta have a strong sense of history, a sense of continuity, a sense of place.

Now, we must build on those strengths. We can't alter our past. We can, however, set the stage for a prosperous future in the Delta. If those of us in public service will provide the proper leadership, Delta residents will work together to pull themselves up in the national rankings. For too long, officeholders have been guilty of looking to the next election rather than the next generation. We must now look more than two or three years down the road. We must do things that will make one of the unhealthiest populations

in the country one of the healthiest. We must also find ways to attract high-tech, knowledge-based industries to the Delta and prepare our people for the kinds of jobs that won't be leaving for south of the border. We must bring the Delta out of poverty and not just repeat the empty rhetoric Delta

residents have grown tired of hearing. The problems of the Delta no longer can be ignored by any American, no matter where he or she might live. A lot of this will take time. Politicians like to be able to point to concrete accomplishments—buildings constructed, roads built—and some of these efforts might not be noticed until today's Delta children become healthy, contributing adults. What we must convince ourselves of is that a much better Delta is not beyond our reach. We have the ability to make changes that will allow us in our old age to look back at

this period and be able to say it was time well spent.

Governor Don Sundquist Republican, Tennessee

Economic development has always been one of my top priorities. I welcome the opportunity to bring private industry and the community together to work with our federal, state and local governments in the name of economic progress.

I have seen the progress such partnerships have afforded our country's Appalachian region and believe the same can happen in our Mississippi Delta. That is why I support legislation to create the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) in the seven states along the lower Mississippi River.

During my 12 years in Congress I represented portions of the Delta region in Tennessee and as Governor I represent them all. I know firsthand the obstacles that prevent this region and its people from achieving their full potential. The special assistance that the DRA would offer is necessary for the region to fully enter the mainstream of the nation's economy.

The success of the Appalachian Regional Commission offers a wonderful model for the DRA. As Governor, I have been intimately involved in the Appalachian program and can attest that it has effectively brought together the federal, state, and local governments and the private sector. Instead of dictates from Washington, these parties have worked together to set up spending priorities and bring realistic programs to our citizens.

Economically distressed counties in Appalachian Tennessee have decreased from 37 prior to the formation of



Pillow-Thompson House, Helena, AR

Courtesy Crawford Johnson Robinson Woods

the Appalachian Commission to 10 today. Income levels have increased from 68 percent of the national average to over 81 percent. Poverty rates have been reduced by more than half.

The same opportunities exist in the Delta region, and the DRA can be instrumental in bringing about meaningful change.

In Tennessee, ARC funds have been used to bring in industry as well as address fundamental quality-of-life issues. We have, for example, used ARC funds to bring municipal water to rural populations that had for years relied on drinking water from wells and springs contaminated by agricultural runoff. We brought municipal sewage service to small towns where failed or deteriorated septic tanks seeped raw sewage onto the ground's surface. We constructed adult learning facilities that have taught marketable skills to previously unskilled workers. We developed primary health care facilities in areas where none existed.

These are but a few of the examples of how ARC funds have been used in Tennessee. The Delta region of Tennessee deserves no less. The problems that we have faced in Appalachia also exist in West Tennessee.

Of Tennessee's 21 Delta counties, seven would be classified as economically distressed under the ARC criteria. There is significant unemployment and underemployment. Public infrastructure is inadequate to afford our citizens an acceptable quality of life or the means for economic growth. Levels of health and educational attainment are below where they should be.

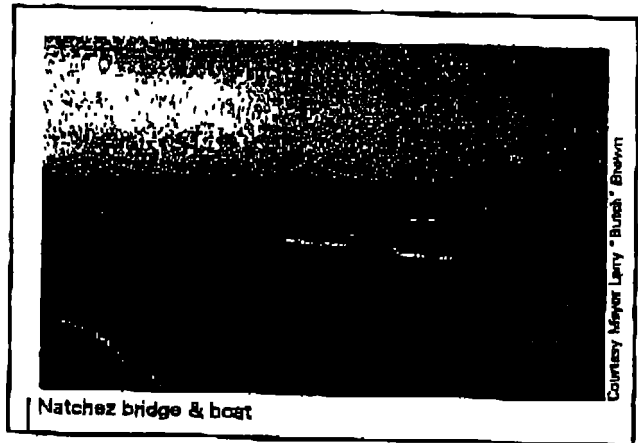
For these reasons, I offer my support for the Delta Initiatives and the creation of the Delta Regional Authority. It is my hope that we can work together to realize the enormous potential of the Delta and its people.

Governor David Ronald Musgrove **Democrat, Mississippi**

One Mississippi Delta writer speaks of the dirt road he saw from his grandmother's window—a road he thought led to nowhere. Half a century later, we continue to struggle valiantly, sometimes desperately, to see prosperity at the end of our Delta roads.

A critical need exists in the Delta for renewal and revitalization of the economic, physical and social environments. Beyond this, or perhaps more accurately stated, blanketing these efforts must be a renewal of the spirit, which allows us to build, to broaden and to bridge. In some way, by some strand, we are each connected to the Delta. It is through that commonality, we must find a way to share a newfound strength and a contagious determination that says, "we can do" in the Delta, a strength that will make no allowances for "we tried."

While much of our nation, indeed part of our state, has experienced growth over the last decade, many Delta communities have not participated fully in our newly found prosperity. By partnering with other states, and by working with local leaders, we can create community-based develop-



Natchez bridge & boat

Courtesy Mayor Larry "Bunch" Brown

ment and tackle the toughest challenges facing Delta counties today.

Water sewer issues. Housing. Roads. Transit. Child care. Education. Training. Job creation. Job retention. These are not the subjects for years after years of patchwork programs that provide only temporary fixes. And they are not the subjects for empty promises and political rhetoric. Our people deserve long-term solutions based on responsible, long-range planning.

To become competitive, we must develop cooperation. To promote investment, we must demand accountability. To drive growth, we must work determinedly. This is not just about the Delta—this is about who we are and who we dare to become as a nation. Working together, we can develop a road map for the future of Mississippi that benefits all of us.

Governor M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr. **Republican, Louisiana**

As all of you are well aware, the lower Mississippi Delta continues to have the largest concentration of high unemployment and poverty in the United States. This is unacceptable. The people of the Delta are a valuable resource. They have seen the Delta area change from an agricultural giant to an area of extremely high poverty and unemployment.

A plan of action which has accountability built into it needs to be developed. It is important that the governor of each state in the Delta has input into the formation of this plan on behalf of the citizens of his state. Each state should have a Delta commission to help develop goals and strategy and to coordinate with the other states for a regional approach to improving the quality of life for the residents of the Delta. Changes in the entire Delta region must be monitored to determine if programs are working or not. Without a coordinated effort, it is likely that we will continue on the same path we have followed for too many years without knowing until it is too late if we are making a difference.

Any organization selected to coordinate the activity of

the Delta should be located in the Delta region and not in Washington, if it is to achieve the most beneficial results. We cannot accept the current conditions in the Delta, and a regional concept will be the most effective in implementing change.

Governor Mel Carnahan

Democrat, Missouri

I appreciate the opportunity to highlight the issues affecting Southeast Missouri, as well as our meaningful efforts to improve the region's quality of life and economic vitality. Our initiatives toward building a more prosperous Southeast Missouri may serve as examples for addressing the issues impacting the Mississippi Delta region.

We have joined hands with the communities in Southeast Missouri to focus our efforts to address three major issues: education and adult literacy; economic and community development; and agriculture.

Education and Adult Literacy

Missouri's Outstanding Schools Act of 1993 resulted in a new Foundation Program formula that improved the equity of funding among all school districts. In this school year alone, 55 school districts in 12 Southeast Missouri counties will receive over \$42 million more in basic state aid. Total funding for the program has increased by nearly \$1 billion since its inception.

The Outstanding Schools Act also initiated Missouri's A+ Schools program. The program sets high standards for schools and gives young people the opportunity to earn a full scholarship to a Missouri community college or technical school. Participating schools have lower dropout rates, improved academic achievement, better attendance and fewer discipline problems. For many families with limited financial means in Southeast Missouri, the A+ Schools program may be the only opportunity for their children to further their education beyond high school.

Recognizing Southeast Missouri's need to boost adult literacy and improve basic academic skills, we have been aggressive in promoting adult basic education programs. In February, the U.S. Department of Education recognized Cape Girardeau's Adult Basic Education program as one of the nation's top ten outstanding adult education and literacy programs. This program serves nearly 1,400 people in a five-county region.

Economic and Community Development

Over the past seven years, the Missouri Department of Economic Development has invested more than \$71 million in initiatives to help locate new and expanding businesses in Southeast Missouri and to improve the critical infrastructure in the region's communities. In addition to partnering with such firms as Procter and Gamble and Good Humor/Breyers

Ice Cream to expand the employment base in the region, our efforts have included micro-enterprise initiatives designed to help small businesses grow and be more competitive. To help workers remain competitive in the marketplace, we have initiated skill-based customized training programs in conjunction with many of the region's employers.

Recognizing that neighborhood vitality is essential to a community's quality of life, Missouri is fostering state-local-federal partnerships to improve neighborhoods by rehabilitating homes and improving infrastructure, such as water and waste water systems. Our combined efforts are providing resources for the development of affordable housing, the preservation of neighborhoods, and a greater emphasis on building new community leadership.

Agriculture

Until the world market becomes a level playing field for agricultural trade, we must help our farmers by giving them access to capital and resources to produce and market their products.

Missouri has initiated a "one-stop" center to help boost the state's farm economy. The establishment of the Agricultural Innovation Center within the Missouri Department of Agriculture will provide information and assistance to help farmers implement new and innovative methods of raising, processing, and marketing their products.

I have also called upon the Legislature to increase state funding to further implement value-added programs, including loans, grants and tax credits that enable farmers to add value to their raw commodities and earn more for their products.

Southeast Missouri is known for its fertile land which yields some of the most diverse agricultural products in the nation. Seven of the ten top crop-producing counties in the state are located in the area. Southeast Missouri family farmers are an admirably resilient and innovative group. Given the right tools, they will survive and prosper.

While significant strides have been made, there is still much work to be done. I offer my support for the Mississippi Delta Initiatives. It is my hope that through our partnership we will continue to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of the people and communities in Southeast Missouri and the Mississippi Delta region.

Governor George H. Ryan

Republican, Illinois

I would like to express my support for the Delta Regional Authority Act (SR1622, HR 2911).

This legislation establishes the Delta Regional Authority to serve the needs of the 219 counties situated within the Lower Mississippi Delta region. Illinois is home to 16 counties within that region. All of the Delta counties, not just those in Illinois, have historically been underserved by critical infrastructure support, industrial development,

access to educational opportunities and quality health care services. The Delta Regional Authority would assist in forming a cooperative entity between the federal and state governments, aimed toward providing much-needed resources and attention to this distressed area of the nation.

The federal programs and services introduced as a result of the Delta Regional Authority would interact with current and future state agency initiatives in Illinois. Therefore, we are working to develop our activities in anticipation of this legislation's passage. I look forward to continuing to work with the President on this most important project.

Governor Paul E. Patton **Democrat, Kentucky**

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I strongly support the mission of and full Congressional funding for the Delta Regional Authority as recommended by President Clinton. This and other Delta regional initiatives promise expanded economic opportunity to individuals and their communities in the 21 Delta counties of Western Kentucky.

The Delta region of Kentucky, like each state within the Lower Mississippi Delta region, has its own unique problems and opportunities. While the region overall has experienced positive economic growth, some areas have been left behind. We must build upon our successes in the Delta region to ensure that all may enjoy the benefits of prosperity.

I envision the Delta Regional Authority as a partner to assist Kentucky's ongoing efforts to improve the capacity of our people and their communities to participate and succeed in the emerging global economy. The new economy provides opportunities for those who are prepared to compete, but presents obstacles for those who are not.

The needs for developing Kentucky's human capital in this region span a lifetime. We must emphasize early childhood development, including early access to health care and childcare, as well as early childhood education. We must increase our high school dropout prevention efforts and provide more vocation counseling for our future workforce. National research proves that the lack of a high school diploma greatly diminishes an individual's earning potential and hampers the region's potential to attract long-term, high wage jobs, both of which are crucial elements of sustained economic development. Adult literacy and job training programs must be increased to assure that every adult is functionally literate and possesses the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully participate in the workplace. Finally, all of our citizens—young or old—must have access to an effective health care system.

To build stronger communities in the Delta region of Western Kentucky, we must invest more in local infrastructure. Many households in our Delta communities are plagued by unsafe drinking water provided by failing systems, or do not have connections to waterlines in the first instance. Public health is also threatened where sewer systems are inadequate or nonexistent. Very few communities in the area have access to the Information Highway. Regional transportation priorities include improving important corridors such as U.S. 60, Great River Road (U.S. 51), and U.S. 68/KY 80. The future bodes well for Kentucky's Delta region to become a national crossroads as proposals for Interstates 69 and 86 are discussed.

To address these vital issues affecting the lives of people and communities in our Delta region, the Commonwealth of Kentucky welcomes the opportunity to join with the other six Delta states as a full and active partner in support of the Delta Regional Authority and other important Delta economic initiatives.

Members of Congress

U.S. Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln **Democrat, Arkansas**

As the United States fortifies its workforce to compete in a global economy, improving opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region must be among our top priorities. Anyone who has traveled along the highways of the South recognizes that poverty and a lack of industrial opportunities have restrained the Delta in our nation's endeavor to succeed.

The lower Mississippi Delta region, following the course of the Mississippi River, stretches from southern Illinois to the Delta of the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. According to the latest Census figures, communities in the seven-state Delta region—Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana—face a poverty rate of 22% while the National average is at 12%.

I have introduced legislation, The Delta Regional Authority Act (S. 1622), to build on efforts begun more than a decade ago when Congress created the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission. Under the leadership of former Arkansas Senator Dale Bumpers, the Commission was charged with studying the unique problems of the Delta region and recommending a course of action. The Commission submitted its Report, "*Realizing the Dream... Fulfilling the Potential*," in 1990. The Chairman of the Commission, former Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, called the Report a "handbook for action."

The Report highlighted problems facing the Delta, whose economy has traditionally been based on agriculture. The Report noted the Delta faced high unemployment, low levels of income and education, welfare dependency, poor health care and housing, along with serious shortcomings in trans-

Irene Bueno

06/08/2000 05:55:20 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP, Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: Delta Initiative Mtg Request

I recommend that early next week you convene a small meeting to get an update on the Delta Initiative and to emphasize to key people - some of whom have not been involved with this initiative - the importance of getting the funding and authorization for it. I don't think this meeting needs to be long (15-20 minutes). Lisa K. thinks that this kind of meeting would be helpful. Lynn - I'm sure you agree too.

The two areas of concern is DOT funding and the getting the authority. Lisa K. thinks we can get the authority through one of 5 legislative vehicles - the most likely candidates are new markets, regular appropriations, or omnibus. The main problem is the \$69 million for the DOT. The House provided nothing for the DOT proposal and the Senate is marking up on Tuesday 6/13 and DOT has just begun to start working on getting the funding. Martha and Kieffer attended a meeting last week but we don't think that they are focused on this and understand its importance. Attached for your information is a legislative strategy memo and a chart on the status of budget requests.

Attendees would include:

Sylvia

Lisa K.

Martha

Chuck Keiffer

Jack Vasso - DOT Budget person

Please let me know if you are okay with this recommendation. Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP on 06/07/2000 07:26 PM -----

Adrienne C. Erbach

06/07/2000 05:50:22 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP, Lisa M. Kountoupes/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: draft leg strategy for the Delta

As promised, here are the strategy and the appropriations tracking documents. Let me know if you need any help or have any questions.



Delta strategy.wp



FY 2001 delta funding

4/7/00

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

	Pres Bud (Request)		House Committee		House Floor		Senate Committee		Senate Floor		Bill	Comments
	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL	BA	OL		
DRA*	30	3	n/a				n/a				E/W	No action on bill yet.
HUD	22	0 ^a	0	0			n/a				VA/HUD	No action on bill in Senate.
DoC	10	1	n/a				n/a				CJS	No action on bill yet.
DoT	69*	14	0	0	0	0	n/a				Transp.	No action on bill in Senate.
USDA	6	2	2	0 ^b			6	2			Ag	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	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	Funding requested in new program which was not authorized nor funded in House Subcmte or Senate Cmte level. No mention of Delta funding in Bill report language.
HHS	7	3	**	**			7	3			Labor/H	House Subcmte 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.
Total	159											

^a Outlays are 2% (\$.44M)

^b Outlays are 25% (\$.5M)

^c Outlays are 5% (\$.25M)

** Funding uncertain -- see comments

* need authority + \$ for Delta Regional Authority (DRA)
*\$25m Grant Rm 1/2-69

June 7, 2000 (5:35PM)

Delta Initiative Legislative Strategy

Action Items:

Talk to Senator Byrd – Mathews ? At the meeting w/ Senator Reid, the Senator's staff indicated that Senator Byrd would be (is?) opposed primarily because he is concerned that the Delta Regional Authority would compete with the ARC for funding. This is primarily an issue if the DRA funding is included in the Energy and Water bill (see third bullet). *(DOT is going to ask Jesse White (ARC) to call Senator Byrd to express support for the DRA)*

Follow-up on the Denali Commission/Delta Regional Authority discussion with Senator Stevens – Kieffer.

Talk to Senator Stevens about housing the Delta Regional Authority in the VA/HUD bill rather than Energy and Water – Kieffer. There may be more success finding funding for the DRA in the VA/HUD bill.

Talk to Senator Bond about championing the DRA in the VA/HUD subcommittee – Kieffer. Because Missouri counties are included in the Delta, it is possible that Senator Bond would be interested in supporting the DRA. (Note: if this happens, it could increase the opportunity to get some of the \$22 million HUD funding.)

Link the New Markets legislation with the authorizing legislation for the Delta Regional Authority – Chuck Brain/WHLA. On the House side, this appears to be possible and it could provide the vehicle to allow for the DRA authorization to be passed. However, it is unclear what the Senate politics on this are.

Conference Call with DOT – Kountoupes, Deich, Cutler, Erbach. Secretary Slater talked to Senator Lott about the earmarks for DOT funding in the Delta. The conference call (scheduled Tuesday (6/6)) is to find out what the Senator said, and to discuss further actions to be taken by DOT (WH?).

Outcome:

DOT to produce 2 impact papers for infrastructure and job access funding.

DOT to talk to Lott's Leg. Director and Senator Shelby (appropriations chair)

Meeting w/ DOT regarding Delta Regional Authority (June 7) – Kountoupes, Deich, Cutler, Erbach.

Outcome:

Secretary Slater to call Senator Byrd re: transportation funding (\$69 million)

DOT to ask Delta members to get Dear Colleague letters drafted and distributed in support of the DRA and specific agency earmarks

DOT to talk to key Senators before Friday's subcommittee mark-up of Transportation bill.

Interagency meeting to develop plans for pursuing other Delta earmarks – Cutler, Kountoupes, Erbach.

Interagency Legislative Conference Call – Kountoupes. To discuss other earmarks.

Meeting with Hill Staff – Kountoupes, Cutler, Erbach. Briefing to develop a strategy for raising visibility of funding issues in Congress.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
Fostering Economic Development in the Mississippi Delta

President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to bringing economic prosperity to the Mississippi Delta region and other areas of the country which have not benefited from the Nation's soaring economy. In the Delta region, poverty remains at 175 percent of the national average and over half of the counties have had poverty rates over 20 percent for the past four decades. The per capita income in the Delta's distressed communities is only 53 percent of the U.S. average. To address these problems, the President's budget proposes \$159 million to increase economic opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, including \$30 million to create a new Delta Regional Authority to bring the resources of a Federal-State partnership to the fight for economic growth in the region. This partnership will help provide the infrastructure and job training needed to make prosperity a reality in the Delta.

Establishing a Delta Regional Authority:

Targeting Distressed Areas. The Delta Regional Authority's funding will be targeted to the counties with the highest poverty and unemployment rates, and lowest per capita income. The DRA will include:

- ✓ \$25 million for area development such as distressed counties programs, physical infrastructure and job training;
- ✓ \$3 million for assistance to participating state and local economic development entities; and
- ✓ \$2 million for technical assistance and administrative expenses.

Fostering a Coordinated Effort. The Delta Regional Authority will foster close coordination between State and local officials and the federal government, led by the Federal Co-Chair appointed by the President. The Governors of the seven member States will serve as DRA members, with one Governor elected to serve as the States' Co-Chair. This can be accomplished through authorizing legislation that has been introduced in the House and Senate.

Providing \$107 Million in Targeted Economic Development Assistance for the Delta Region:

Supporting Rural Housing and Economic Development. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide \$22 million in Community Development Block Grants to support rural housing and economic development. Funding will be awarded through a competitive process for economic revitalization and community development initiatives in the Delta region.

Improving Public Works and Infrastructure. The Commerce Department will provide \$10 million through targeted Economic Development Administration funding for public works and infrastructure grants. These grants require a state or local match, except in extremely distressed communities.

Increasing Funds for Transportation Improvements. The Transportation Department will provide a total of \$69 million in funding targeted to the Delta Region, including:

- ✓ \$48 million for new bridge and highway infrastructure in the Delta, including \$25 million specifically for I-69 and the Great River Bridge;
- ✓ \$20 million in transit funds, consisting of \$15 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants program for public transit buses and bus facilities to provide affordable

- transportation and \$5 million from FTA's Access to Jobs and Reverse Commute Grants to promote vanpools, new bus routes, and other transportation alternatives; and
- ✓ \$1 million from Federal Highway Administration administrative funds for technical assistance, including training on Federal programs and developing a tourism marketing plan.

Supporting Rural Business. The Department of Agriculture will provide \$6 million in funding to support rural businesses, including:

- ✓ \$4 million for the Intermediary Relending Program, which finances loans to intermediary borrowers who in turn re-lend the funds to rural businesses, community development corporations, and others for the purpose of improving rural economic opportunity -- the \$4 million represents loan subsidy costs and would support a loan level of \$8 million; and
- ✓ \$2 million for Partnership Technical Assistance grants, to help under-served communities create strategic plans, better use USDA's rural development grant and loan programs, create jobs, improve the quality of life, and build strong, sustained economic growth. These grants will be run through the Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program.

Investing \$22 Million in the People of the Delta Region:

Providing Training for Dislocated Workers. The Department of Labor will provide resources through the Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Program, which provides core services, intensive services, training and support to help dislocated workers return to work as quickly as possible. The Labor Department will partner with the Departments of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Education, and Health and Human Services to support the Delta Regional Authority activities by providing as much as \$5 million in dislocated worker grants for qualified applications from the seven States and 219 counties comprising the Mississippi Delta region.

Providing Technology Training for Teachers. The Education Department will provide \$10 million for a targeted demonstration project to provide technology training to middle school teachers in the seven-state Mississippi Delta region. Research suggests that middle school is an especially critical time for students to learn the technology-related skills they will need to succeed in today's economy. The program will use a "train-the-trainers" approach by training a small number of teachers from each school who can then be technology leaders, serve as resident experts, and assist other teachers in their schools or districts.

Increasing Access to Quality Health Services. The Department of Health and Human Services will provide \$7 million through the Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Outreach program for grants to fund rural health clinics in the Mississippi Delta region. This request will fund up to 30 new Rural Health Outreach grants, and will support a wide range of services in the Delta Region including primary care, dental care, mental health services and emergency care. Each grant will require participation by a consortium of three or more providers, which will encourage the development of shared services arrangements among providers and new networks of care in the Delta Region.

Draft 05/09/00 9:00pm
Heather Hurlburt

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS TO DELTA VISION, DELTA VOICES
CRYSTAL GATEWAY MARRIOTT
ARLINGTON, VA
May 10, 2000**

Acknowledgements: Thank Conn Davis for that introduction. Conn's an impressive young man – and in addition to being a football standout, an Eagle Scout, and a member of Boy's Nation, he plays trombone in his school jazz band. I also want to thank all the members of my Administration who are here, especially those who came up from the Delta and never forgot it. Secretary Slater, thank you for your lifetime of work for the Delta, and for your leadership in organizing this conference. Secretaries Herman, Babbitt, Glickman, and Riley; EPA Administrator Carol Browner; FCC Chairman Bill Kennard; Janice LaChance of OPM. Governor Musgrove of Mississippi. And a special hello to the hundreds of people watching from the Delta by satellite, helping us make sure this is the largest gathering on the Delta ever held.

It has been my great honor to be involved with the Mississippi Delta and its people just about all my life. When I was a young college student, I used to take a day every Christmas vacation to drive to the Delta and just ride around. I never knew I would be governor, much less President. But I was just fascinated with the place, and I promised myself that if I could ever do anything about it, I would.

The Delta has that kind of hold on people – on those who call it home, and those who just come to visit and fall under its spell. We've all devoted years of our lives to making the promise and problems of the Delta better known in our own country and around the world. Quite a few of us here today worked together ten years ago on the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission I chaired. We said then that our challenge and responsibility as a nation was "to make the people of the Delta full partners in America's future."

That's why we're here today. This conference is the culmination of ten years of effort – and we have some real progress to show -- but it also marks our rededication to the effort to build a strong, prosperous Delta region for a new century. And I'm here today to pledge that the federal government will be in the forefront of that effort, working with the people of the Delta; and that I personally will be working on these issues until the day I leave office and for the rest of my life afterwards.

For the last seven years, as President, I've worked with you to honor our commitment to the Delta. We have brought the full force of our government to bear on Delta challenges. 24 federal agencies got together to help Rodney Slater run the federal task force on the Delta, and put together this report, a worthy successor to what we did ten years ago. It's given us all a chance to look back a decade, and to look forward at the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We've made important progress toward the goals we set ten years ago – beginning with putting our national economy back on track. We now have 3.9 percent unemployment – the lowest in thirty years. We've created 21 million new jobs. We've put in place policies that help hard-pressed working families in the Delta and elsewhere – expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and helping bring the wonders of the Internet into schools with our E-rate initiative.

Let me tell you one story about the E-rate. In 1995, Conn Davis's school district in East Prairie had 24 computers for 1100 students. The E-rate helped them acquire 350 computers. They're teaching kids and they're using Federal funds to give adult computer classes. By June, the E-rate will have brought \$4 billion in technology funds to the 7 Delta states – and helped thousands of people help themselves.

There's been real change in the daily lives of millions of Delta residents. Since our 1990 report, more than 10,000 Delta residents got phone service for the first time. We're helping reduce class size and raise test scores in elementary schools across the region. We've made major improvements in river navigation and port services along the Mississippi, and invested hundreds of millions of dollars in highway and airport upgrades. We've invested more than \$10 million in Enterprise Zones and Empowerment Communities throughout the Delta – and they've leveraged ten times that much from local and private sources.

I've also reached out across party lines and to the private sector to help spread economic opportunities in the Delta and other places that are not yet sharing in our booming growth. Our New Markets Initiative has brought new sources of credit and expertise, along with top-flight business leaders, to places like Hermitage, Arkansas and Clarksdale, Mississippi. And it's brought results like the private-sector Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, which has created more than 5200 jobs and helped support more than 600 local businesses.

Unemployment has fallen across the Delta, from 7.5 percent in 1993 to 4.2 percent last December. And the Delta counties in Mississippi created jobs 13 percent faster than the national average. But Delta unemployment is still higher than the nation as a whole. Wages and home ownership are up in the Delta, but they're still below the national level. And while we're gaining ground against poverty and infant mortality in the Delta, they remain much too high.

We're here today because we know that statistics don't tell the whole story... because there are still towns without proper sewage systems and kids sick from pollution or malnutrition... because the Delta is home to millions of Americans who are still seeking the opportunity to live their dreams and build for their children a future that is better than the past. And we're here because it is in our national interest to help them do it.

There is no reason on earth for the Delta to be left behind as our national economy surges forward. We are in the midst of a technology revolution that can help lift more people out of poverty more quickly than ever before, and extend opportunity to people everywhere. Just as the Mississippi River has been a vital trade route for centuries, today the Mississippi Delta should be a major hub on the trade routes of the Information Age.

But if there's one central message we should draw from the last decade, it is that we've got to look at the Delta region as a whole – and understand it as more than the sum of its parts. That is why I've asked Congress to create a Delta Regional Authority with \$110 million to invest in the economic future of the Mississippi Delta next year. I want to thank Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln and Representative Marion Berry for sponsoring the bill in Congress, and Senator Bill Frist for his strong support. We have a number of bipartisan co-sponsors from across the Delta and I hope, working with them, that we can bring the Authority to life this year. We know that the Appalachian Regional Commission has made a real difference there – let's use what works to make a difference in the Delta.

Today we're announcing new government support for the Delta in three broad areas: attracting new business and economic development; investing in basic infrastructure; and building strong, healthy communities. You've already heard from the Vice President about our major new proposals for economic development: loans and grants for small business, training, community technology centers, financial institutions and tourism. That is an important package.

But to help the Delta prosper in the Information Age, we've got to bring its basic infrastructure into the 21st century. We've still got communities in the Delta that don't have a reliable source of safe drinking water... communities with systems too fragile to support industry of any size. Today, I'm announcing \$30 million in grants and loans to help 19 communities improve their water supplies. The Department of Commerce has also issued new grants for road and water projects that will help promote industrial development in four communities.

Bricks and mortar alone don't build a successful community. One of the Delta's most attractive qualities can't be measured in feasibility studies or economic reports. The Delta is a good place to live... a place where you know your neighbors, where family and community are the center of life. We need to make those communities strong and healthy, and make them places that young people like Conn Davis will stay to work and raise their own children.

We're helping make Delta communities safer by expanding community policing through our COPS program. Today I'm announcing our two newest COPS grantees – Helena, Arkansas and Greenwood, Louisiana. We're also supporting environmental education and environmentally-sound farming; we're helping more Delta residents build and buy their own homes; and we're funding a new public-private partnership to provide regional planning information that much of the Delta has never had.

I am proud of the new resources we are bringing to the Delta, but I know that its most vital resources are ones its people have always had – strong and determined spirits... commitment to God and family... and pride in the richness of a Delta heritage. You've given America the classic blues of Muddy Waters and BB King...the soaring gospel of Mahalia Jackson...the timeless words of Richard Wright and Eudora Welty. You've given America the spirit that William Faulkner summed up as "love and honor and pity and pride and compassion and sacrifice;" and with it, the belief that "man will not merely endure: he will prevail."

The Delta people, as we wrote in our first report in 1990, are a people who prefer hope

over despair. We are here today to pledge that together we will forge an American future with the Delta at its heart.

Thank you.



Marjorie Tarmey

06/01/2000 11:04:03 AM

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Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP

CC:

Subject: Re: Delta meeting

I think that you should also go to this meeting

----- Forwarded by Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP on 06/01/2000 11:03 AM -----

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Adrienne C. Erbach

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06/01/2000 10:58:45 AM

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Record Type: Record

To: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: lisa m. kountoupes/who/eop@eop, michael deich/omb/eop@eop, marjorie tarmey/who/eop@eop

Subject: Re: Delta meeting 

Does tomorrow at 11:30 work for everyone for an internal meeting? If so, we can meet in room 248.

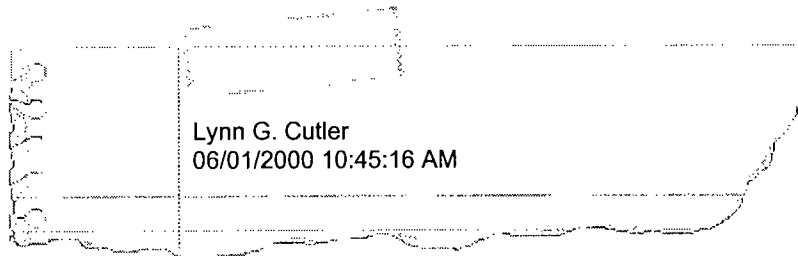
► **Marjorie Tarmey**
06/01/2000 11:04:32 AM
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Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Delta Regional Authority

fyi

----- Forwarded by Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP on 06/01/2000 11:04 AM -----



Record Type: Record

To: Lisa M. Kountoupes/WHO/EOP@EOP, Adrienne C. Erbach/OMB/EOP@EOP, Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Delta Regional Authority

----- Forwarded by Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP on 06/01/2000 10:44 AM -----



"Darr, Linda" <Linda.Darr@ost.dot.gov>
06/01/2000 10:29:48 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP
cc:
Subject: Delta Regional Authority

Lynn -

Following up on our conversation yesterday, I would recommend that we hold a strategy session early next week to discuss how we move the DRA forward. The following things could be considered:

Should we seek referral to separate committees given that the committees currently assigned don't appear to be well represented by those in the Delta that are most affected by this?

If we must deal on the basis of the current referrals what other co-sponsors can we find and how do we move forward to ensure support?

Are there other vehicles that, somehow, we could connect with that would be a better fit -- the current New Markets piece flying through Congress...

This doesn't need to be a large meeting. Other than you and Lisa K it would mostly be those at DOT who have either been the most involved or carry the most responsibility on the Hill. The list of DOT folks is below. I'd also suggest Ken Smith from Interior and leg. affairs from OMB.

From DOT:

Jack Basso, Asst. Secy. for Budget & Programs, 366-9191
Mike Frazier, Asst. Secy for Governmental Affairs, 366-4563
me
Al
Wilson
Harold

Jack Basso particularly wants to be helpful and is prepared to become fully engaged. He called you last night.

See you tonight. Thanks.

Linda Bauer Darr
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Budget & Programs
U.S. Department of Transportation
tel. 202/366-9192 fax 202/366-6031

► **Marjorie Tarmey**
06/01/2000 11:04:48 AM
.....

Record Type: Record

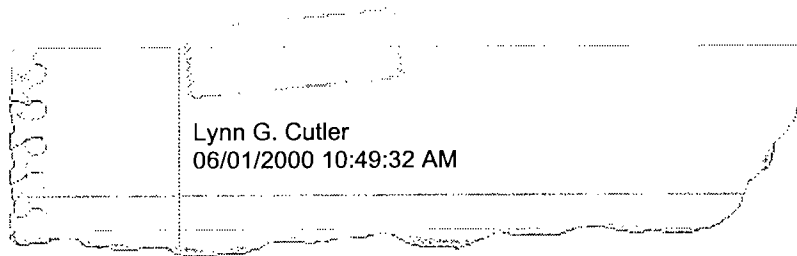
To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Delta meeting

fyi

----- Forwarded by Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP on 06/01/2000 11:04 AM -----



Record Type: Record

To: Lisa M. Kountoupes/WHO/EOP@EOP, Adrienne C. Erbach/OMB/EOP@EOP, Michael Deich/OMB/EOP@EOP, Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Delta meeting

I just got a call from Jack Basso, and he feels our window of opportunity is very short on this. The secy. talked to Sen. Lott and felt there was daylight. I know Lisa wanted an internal meeting first--we could do it on Monday. The only others would be three from DOT and Ken Smith from Interior. I'm scheduling this for 4:00 Tuesday in Room 472.