

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-209

1  
2  
3       REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH  
4       ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
5       AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT A STUDY OF  
6       METHODS FOR DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY, REVENUE, INVESTMENT, AND JOBS  
7       IN THE DELTA ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND FOR CREATING A NEW  
8       VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DELTA AND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

9  
10       WHEREAS, the Mississippi River and its extensive network of tributaries  
11       serve as vital transportation arteries linking diverse markets across  
12       Arkansas to the Gulf of Mexico and to the world; and

13  
14       WHEREAS, agriculture and transportation have been, and continue to be,  
15       the primary factors that shape the cultural landscape of the Mississippi  
16       River Delta; and

17  
18       WHEREAS, quality of life has become a major factor in economic  
19       development, essential for attracting and retaining a strong workforce, as  
20       well as existing and new businesses; and

21  
22       WHEREAS, outdoor recreational activities have emerged as a significant  
23       means for improving quality of life in rural communities; and

24  
25       WHEREAS, hiking and biking routes, greenways, fishing lakes, birding  
26       trails, and other recreational activities are no longer luxuries but  
27       necessary amenities; and

28  
29       WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Tourism should focus attention on  
30       developing the Delta and Mississippi River for furthering tourism and should  
31       increase promotional efforts to attract visitors to the natural resources of  
32       this region; and

33  
34       WHEREAS, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission should work to expand  
35       opportunities for Geo- and Eco- Tourism in the Delta Region; and

1 WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department  
2 should work to improve the transportation and trails infrastructure of the  
3 Delta Region; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission should work to  
6 improve opportunities for the creation of new Geo- and Eco-Tourism-based  
7 businesses and jobs in the Delta Region; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Heritage should work to establish a  
10 broad-based plan with the Department of Parks and Tourism to promote the rich  
11 history and cultural heritage of the area as part of a packaged attraction to  
12 the Delta region; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the Department of Rural Services should expand the focus of  
15 rural development and revitalization in the Delta Region to include promotion  
16 and funding of Geo- and Eco- Tourism based community projects; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission includes as part of  
19 its mission statement a concern for economic development in relation to water  
20 use and management and should accordingly increase its focus on water  
21 recreation issues related to the Mississippi River; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Agriculture Department should establish programs  
24 to promote Agri-Tourism in the Delta Region and assist farmers in developing  
25 such markets and jobs creation for such markets; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, the Mississippi River is a resource that can be capitalized  
28 upon to regenerate prosperity in the Delta Region; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, our sister states in the Mississippi River Delta have funded  
31 programs to develop their history, culture and natural resources along the  
32 Mississippi River with a vision toward bringing a new and substantial tourist  
33 based economy to their respective states; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas, through the collective efforts of the  
36 aforementioned agencies, should likewise become visionary regarding the

1 unique resources in the Mississippi River Delta, should go beyond the decades  
2 old studies of the areas resources, and should commence meaningful investment  
3 in infrastructure and public projects that will serve as the beginning of a  
4 new economy in this impoverished region of our state; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the aforementioned state agencies should communicate with  
7 sister agencies in the other Mississippi River border states to gain insight  
8 as to which public investments in furtherance of these common goals have  
9 resulted in current positive economic benefits or are projected to do so in  
10 the foreseeable future,

11  
12 NOW THEREFORE,

13 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH  
14 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

15  
16 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council refer to the House Committee on  
17 Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development a study of methods for  
18 developing a new tourist-based economy in the Delta along the Mississippi  
19 River and for creating a new vision for the future of the Delta and the  
20 Mississippi River.

21  
22 Respectfully Submitted,

23  
24  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 Representative Robert S. Moore, Jr.  
27 District 12

\_\_\_\_\_

Representative Allen Maxwell  
District 10

28  
29  
30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Representative Clark Hall  
32 District 13

\_\_\_\_\_

Representative David Rainey  
District 11

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36

---

Representative Gregg Reep  
District 8

---

Representative Nancy Blount  
District 52

---

Representative Toni Bradford  
District 18

---

Representative Jerry Brown  
District 57

---

Representative Tracy Pennartz  
District 65

---

Representative Rick Saunders  
District 24

---

Representative Kathy Webb  
District 37

---

Representative Eddie Cheatham  
District 9

---

Representative Tommy Baker  
District 55

---

Representative Earnest Brown  
District 16

---

Representative Joan Cash  
District 75

---

Representative J. R. Rogers  
District 73

---

Representative Charolette Wagner  
District 77

---

Representative Robbie Wills  
District 46

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36

---

Representative David Dunn  
District 51

---

Representative Mike Patterson  
District 79

---

Representative Stephanie Flowers  
District 17

---

Representative David Wyatt  
District 72

---

Representative Tommy Dickson  
District 58

---

Representative Denny Sumpter  
District 53

---

Representative Otis Davis  
District 54

Filed Date: 12/11/2007 By: MGF/cds/vjf