



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Deborah Ferguson

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DISTRICT 63

Counties:

Part Crittenden
Part St. Francis

COMMITTEES:

Public Health, Welfare and Labor
Insurance and Commerce
Arkansas Legislative Council

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FY2023 USDOT Protect Grant Application
City of West Memphis, Arkansas

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the State Representative for the City of West Memphis, Arkansas, I am pleased to support the city's application for a Fiscal Year 2023 United States Department of Transportation's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant to fund the Mississippi River Bridges: Resilience of Multimodal Infrastructure through the Floodplain Restoration and Protection project.

This wetland restoration and reforestation effort will help to remedy the continued degradation of the floodplain due to the extreme Mississippi River flooding. In addition, the new hardwood forests will strengthen the floodplain, and reduce wave action and scour on the earthen embankments that support two major interstate crossings (I-40 and I-55). Those crossings are the Big River Crossing pedestrian bridge, Levee Trail, Meadow Trail and two railroad crossings; these are vital transportation systems to the local, regional and national economy that converge in the Mississippi River floodplain in the State of Arkansas.

This effort has been proposed to benefit the community for years to come, and to position them for enhanced opportunities and quality of life.

Secretary Buttigieg
Page 2

Thank you for considering their application for the PROTECT Grant funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Deborah Ferguson
State Representative
District 63

DF/prs