



Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota

300 33rd Avenue South, Suite 101 • Waite Park, Minnesota 56387

Phone: 651-341-4196 • E-Mail: info@MnMississippiRiver.com

Members of the House: Sheldon Johnson (DFL – 67B) – Chair **Members of the Senate:** David Senjem (R – 25); Patricia Torres Ray (DFL – 63) **State Agency Appointees:** Paul Hugunin – Agriculture, Scott Bradley – Transportation, Adam Johnson – Explore Minnesota Tourism, Keith Parker – Natural Resources, Andrea Kajer – Historical Society **Regional Appointees:** Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids, Amanda MacDonald – Grand Rapids to Brainerd, Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River, Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings, Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border **Member at Large:** Anne Lewis

February 2, 2017

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

In December of 2016, National Scenic Byways celebrated 25 years of bringing residents and travelers closer to places of scenic, historic, natural, recreational, archaeological, and cultural value in their states and throughout the nation, enhancing the public's appreciation for their country and its iconic resources. The National Scenic Byways Program, established in 1991 and administered by the Federal Highway Administration, oversees 120 National Scenic Byways (as of 2010) and 31 All-American Roads in 46 states. Minnesotans are fortunate to host 21 Scenic Byways (including seven National Scenic Byways and one All-American Road), most accessing rural areas and small towns, but also offering access to thousands in our urban centers as well.


As the state commission that is organized by statute and, in partnership with MnDOT, oversees the Great River Road – an integrated, intermodal transportation artery providing access statewide to the Mississippi River – the Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission wanted to share the significance of this national tourism and travel infrastructure program with you.

For Minnesota's Great River Road, we know that the impact of tourism in adjacent counties is evidenced by gross leisure and hospitality sales of over \$9.8 billion, and 180,091 jobs (MN Dept. of Revenue, and Dept. of Employee and Economic Development, 2014). Also special for our state is the length of the Great River Road: 565 miles of route touch 20 counties, 43 communities and three tribes, as it meanders down the center of the state and makes its way to the Iowa border. It intersects federal, state, county and township roads, as well as bike trails, 11 state parks, the only U.S. National Park dedicated to America's great river, and numerous waterway access points along the way. It is a complex collection of intermodal systems maintained to encourage travelers and residents to touch their great river.

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Minnesota completed a new Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Plan in 2016, and we're enclosing a summary brochure for your reference. The full report and supporting documents are available at www.mnmississippiriver.com/cmp. Anne Lewis, MN-MRPC Commissioner At-Large, will be in Washington D.C. March 1. She will be contacting your office to request an appointment to further discuss the importance of Minnesota's Great River Road and specific opportunities to benefit your district, Minnesota and our nation. Thank you in advance for considering her request.

Sincerely,


Rep. Sheldon Johnson, Chair



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February 2, 2017

The Honorable Al Franken
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Franken,

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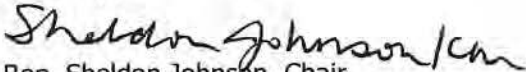
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The Honorable Tim Walz
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walz,

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The Honorable Jason Lewis
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lewis,

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The Honorable Erik Paulsen
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Paulsen,

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The Honorable Betty McCollum
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McCollum,

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The Honorable Keith Ellison
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
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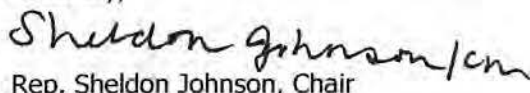
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The Honorable Tom Emmer
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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The Honorable Collin Peterson
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Peterson,

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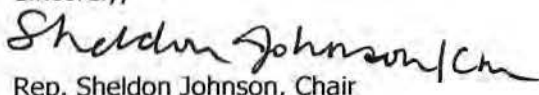
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Members of the House: Sheldon Johnson (DFL – 67B) – Chair *Members of the Senate:* David Senjem (R – 25); Patricia Torres Ray (DFL – 63) *State Agency Appointees:* Paul Hugunin – Agriculture, Scott Bradley – Transportation, Adam Johnson – Explore Minnesota Tourism, Keith Parker – Natural Resources, Andrea Kajer – Historical Society *Regional Appointees:* Nancy Salminen – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids, Amanda MacDonald – Grand Rapids to Brainerd, Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River, Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings, Sheronne Mulry – Hastings to Iowa Border *Member at Large:* Anne Lewis

February 2, 2017

The Honorable Rick Nolan
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Nolan,

In December of 2016, National Scenic Byways celebrated 25 years of bringing residents and travelers closer to places of scenic, historic, natural, recreational, archaeological, and cultural value in their states and throughout the nation, enhancing the public's appreciation for their country and its iconic resources. The National Scenic Byways Program, established in 1991 and administered by the Federal Highway Administration, oversees 120 National Scenic Byways (as of 2010) and 31 All-American Roads in 46 states. Minnesotans are fortunate to host 21 Scenic Byways (including seven National Scenic Byways and one All-American Road), most accessing rural areas and small towns, but also offering access to thousands in our urban centers as well.

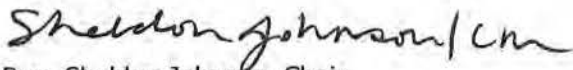
As the state commission that is organized by statute and, in partnership with MnDOT, oversees the Great River Road – an integrated, intermodal transportation artery providing access statewide to the Mississippi River – the Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission wanted to share the significance of this national tourism and travel infrastructure program with you.

For Minnesota's Great River Road, we know that the impact of tourism in adjacent counties is evidenced by gross leisure and hospitality sales of over \$9.8 billion, and 180,091 jobs (MN Dept. of Revenue, and Dept. of Employee and Economic Development, 2014). Also special for our state is the length of the Great River Road: 565 miles of route touch 20 counties, 43 communities and three tribes, as it meanders down the center of the state and makes its way to the Iowa border. It intersects federal, state, county and township roads, as well as bike trails, 11 state parks, the only U.S. National Park dedicated to America's great river, and numerous waterway access points along the way. It is a complex collection of intermodal systems maintained to encourage travelers and residents to touch their great river.

One of the roles of the Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission is to integrate National Scenic Byway programs into our management of the Great River Road. We do this through Corridor Management Plan implementation, localized grants support, statewide connections to Convention and Visitors Bureaus, and the constant input of our state partners at the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Explore Minnesota Tourism, Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Minnesota completed a new Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Plan in 2016, and we're enclosing a summary brochure for your reference. The full report and supporting documents are available at www.mnmississippiriver.com/cmp. Anne Lewis, MN-MRPC Commissioner At-Large, will be in Washington D.C. March 1. She will be contacting your office to request an appointment to further discuss the importance of Minnesota's Great River Road and specific opportunities to benefit your district, Minnesota and our nation. Thank you in advance for considering her request.

Sincerely,


Rep. Sheldon Johnson, Chair