



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1400 WALNUT STREET  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39180-3262

May 26, 2021

Mr. Sean Duffy  
Executive Director  
Big River Coalition  
4741 Utica Street, Suite 200  
Metairie, Louisiana 70006

Dear Mr. Duffy:

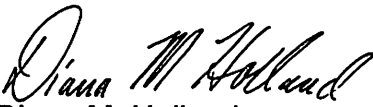
Thank you for your testimony to the Mississippi River Commission during our recent meeting in New Orleans on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Commission's mission of providing water resources engineering direction and policy advice to the Administration, Congress, and the Army to facilitate sustainable management and development of water-related resources on the Mississippi River and Tributaries System (MR&T) is greatly enabled by the testimony provided by our stakeholders and partners at our inspection trips and public meetings. Your testimony and personal engagement help us gain a better understanding of the conditions and challenges that are unique to your experience with the river. Your efforts contribute to ensuring that the MR&T system continues to function effectively for the nation's benefit and the people's well-being.

The Commission could not agree with you more on the importance of the Mississippi River navigation project to the national economy as well as to international trade. It truly is the critical connection between America's heartland and the world. Its vital role in supporting and sustaining strong local, regional, and national economies requires a national commitment to ensure that it continues to provide safe, reliable, and efficient transportation. The need to secure sufficient operation and maintenance resources will continue to increase as global markets and competition on our waterways continues to expand.

In your testimony you inquired about the need to dredge anchorage areas along the Mississippi River and the specific importance of the Pilottown Anchorage, the Lower Grandview Anchorage, and the Belle Chasse Anchorage. We appreciate your input and ideas on Section 106 of Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2020 and are happy to see how the Big River Coalition is participating in the WRDA listening sessions to better inform actions related to this matter. Anchorage areas are vital to accommodate vessel traffic, improve navigation safety, and provide for the overall safe and efficient flow of vessel traffic and commerce. We will support the Administration in their interpretation of Section 106 and, pending further direction, stand ready to take the requisite action.

We appreciate your continued involvement with the Corps and the Commission and look forward to hearing from you at future meetings.

Sincerely,

  
Diana M. Holland  
Major General, U.S. Army  
President, Mississippi River  
Commission