

MRCTI Capitol Meeting

DC 2024 MARCH 6-8

MRCTI Mayors Urge White House Supply Chain Council Prioritize the Mississippi River



During the Capitol Meeting, MRCTI Mayors met with Ryan Whalen, Special Assistant to the President, Senior Advisor for IRA Implementation and Monica Gorman, Special Assistant to the President for Manufacturing and Industrial Policy. Ms. Gorman also acts as senior advisor to the President's Supply Chain Resilience Council. Mayors proposed to assist the Council on several of their inaugural initiatives including:

- inclusion of the Mississippi River port superstructure and assets in the quadrennial supply chain review;
- inclusion of the Mississippi River Corridor in tabletop exercises for supply chain disruptions as months of drought along the Mississippi can

be more expensive to the nation than years of drought in the west;

- expansion of the NOAA drought early warning system and USGS nutrient monitoring to the entire Mississippi River (this is particularly valuable considering the 2022/23 year-long drought cost the nation over \$26 billion in losses);
- assistance in developing the agenda and partnerships for the Supply Chain Data and Analytics Summit. Mayors believe they can bring scaled-resilience into the summit by linking climate vulnerability to supply chain disruption along with natural solutions to address disruptions at scale using land-based projects;
- expansion of the EPA Clean Ports grant program to include climate mitigation and resilience capacities to protect new emissions technology. Nearly a trillion dollars in product passes the St. Louis Arch on the Mississippi annually. All of that product is also passing through MRCTI member city ports.

The White House responded to the Mayors proposals favorably acknowledging the Mississippi Corridor's essential role in national security and global supply chain integrity.

Mayors remain firm that only through particular attention to Middle America and its production, manufacturing, and transportation capacity will true resilience for the US supply chain be achieved.

The White House committed to working with the Mayors on the above.

**THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER,
OUR CONNECTION
IS NATURAL**



Mayors Unveil 2024 Federal Policy Platform to Congress

MRCTI Mayors came to Washington with their top policy and appropriation agenda items in hand. Eight major policy recommendations together with seven appropriation priorities comprise the platform for 2024.

Mayors describe their proposal this year as a scaled-up, bold, and ambitious plan to protect and restore the world's most important riverine region. Submission of the platform marks the half-way point of the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Mississippi River Basin produces 92 percent of United States agricultural exports and makes possible over \$400 billion worth of fresh-water-dependent manufacturing.

The Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act have the potential to fund transformative projects to completion throughout America. However, this historic funding must be supported by smart policy as well as process and implementation spending for certain critical related programs.

The Platform incorporates resilience, climate mitigation, ecosystem restoration, recycling infrastructure, conservation, and water security.



MRCTI 2024 Federal Policy Platform is available at this link:
<https://www.mrcti.org/s/Capitol-Mtg-2024-Platform-One-Pagers.pdf>

Mayors Honor Senator Boozman as Champion of the Mississippi



Mayor Melisa Logan of Blytheville, AR presided over honoring Senator John Boozman, co-chair of the Mississippi River Caucus, for his leadership and constant alliance with the Mayors to realize positive change for the Mississippi River.

Spearheading multiple initiatives such as enacting the first lower Mississippi River Ecosystem Restoration Project and introducing the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission Act as well as cosponsoring the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act, Senator Boozman is a dedicated leader.



Mayors Push for EPA and USDA to Scale-Up IRA and Jobs Act Grants to Multiple States

Knowing that real change for the entire corridor can only be achieved through multi-state level projects, Mayors urged the EPA office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights as well as the USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment to work with them to intake a single grant application with many cities instead of scattered applications from cities one-by-one. Urban Forestry and Community Change grants are first.