

**A PROCLAMATION ENDORSING POLICIES AND PRACTICES
THAT ENSURE THE FUTURE HEALTH AND VITALITY OF
THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND ITS COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River is an important source of water for 18 million people, a diverse and critical habitat for wildlife, the backbone of our economy and a rich part of our heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River corridor is crucial to the local, regional and national economy, and is responsible for contributing to our nation’s food, feed and fiber, necessitating the need for a balance between production and conservation of important natural resources, made possible through the support of agricultural and other land conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, communities along the Mississippi River have experienced catastrophic and unprecedented flooding in recent years, highlighting the need for technical and financial resources to reduce the risk of flooding; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River’s floodplain provides critical services to communities such as storing and filtering flood water, enhancing habitat for fish and other wildlife, and providing outdoor recreation access for public health and eco-tourism; and

WHEREAS, green infrastructure solutions use both the natural environment and engineered systems to reduce flooding impacts, provide clean water, conserve ecosystem values and functions, and provide a wide array of benefits to people and wildlife, often at a fraction of the cost of traditional gray infrastructure approaches; and

WHEREAS, protection and restoration of the Mississippi River’s floodplain and the use of green infrastructure will result in improved water quality, reduced flood risk, increased recreation and eco-tourism, enhanced habitat for fish and wildlife, and other benefits to River communities, and as such, funding for the protection and restoration of floodplain lands along the River and its tributaries and other green infrastructure approaches should be prioritized through the FEMA Pre-disaster Mitigation Program and USEPA Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Green Project Reserve Funds; and

WHEREAS, the *1 Mississippi* campaign promotes a healthier Mississippi River, from the headwaters to the Gulf, and has encouraged over 13,000 people to become “River Citizens”, strengthening their connection to the River and providing information about how floodplain restoration and green infrastructure solutions can help their communities and the region; and

WHEREAS, the *Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative* is an association of mayor-lead communities whose cities are adjacent to the waterway and whose collective mission is to pursue and protect an ecologically healthy River to achieve an economically sustainable River; and

WHEREAS, (insert example of City project or plan showing implementation of practices and policies previously outlined in this Proclamation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Cities along the Mississippi River do hereby endorse efforts to:

Recital 1. Green Infrastructure. Utilize green infrastructure as a means of protecting and restoring the Mississippi River;

Recital 2. River Citizens. Encourage our residents to become “River Citizens” through the *I Mississippi* campaign;

Recital 3. Healthy River and Floodplain. Support policies and practices that prioritize the health of the river and its floodplain for the benefit of people, wildlife, the local economy and future generations.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED this fifteenth day of September 2016.

MAYOR

CITY

SIGNATURE

In Cooperation with:



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us®

