

April 10, 2003

The Honorable Mike Huckabee
Office of the Governor
State Capitol, Room 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Huckabee:

We write to you to express our displeasure with the administration of the Delta Regional Authority. After many years of pushing to get recognition of the many challenges that face the Delta region, we have an organization that is supposed to be a state/federal partnership in attempting to resolve some of these issues and help the many people that live in the Delta region of our states. We want this organization to succeed, but we believe that something must be done to assure that the federal co-chair and staff of DRA recognize that the individual states should have a strong voice in the operation of the DRA. We do not believe that is the case today.

There are several areas that create concern and we need to address these issues with the federal co-chair and executive director of DRA. Most important is the issue of how the grant application will be handled for 2003 which is scheduled to begin within a few days. The federal co-chair and executive director of DRA propose that the application process start in our individual states without the input of Governors and we do not believe that this is in the best interest of individual states. We request that you intervene as our elected state co-chair and halt this process until we can come to an agreement that better reflects the recommendations of the states in the Delta region.

The other issue that needs to be addressed is the lack of coordination with the individual states by DRA. Each state has the right to expect that DRA and its staff will coordinate their activities with the Governor of each state and that is not being done today.

Each of us has an Alternate that represents us with the DRA and we do not believe that our voices are being heard at the DRA. We want this organization to succeed and it will have a greater chance to do so if each Governor is allowed to participate in the operation of the DRA and have a real state/federal partnership.

We regret that we have to request that you intervene on our behalf with the federal co-chair and executive director of DRA, but we feel we have no choice based on the attitude of these people toward our Alternates as our representatives at DRA during the past year.

We appreciate the time and effort you have invested on our behalf with the DRA and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

Paul E. Patton

Bob Riley

Rod R. Blagojevich

Ronnie Musgrove

Bob Holden