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Co-Chair  
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# Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative

An Association of United States Mayors

**Our River Like Our Democracy Shall Flow Unhindered 2021**



June 1, 2021

The Honorable Mark Kuzma  
City Hall, Office of the Mayor  
7550 Sunwood Drive, NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303

Dear Mayor Kuzma,

## **Our Post-Pandemic Recovery is Fragile and Depends on Mayors**

The post-pandemic period of recovery and regained growth we are entering has been initiated by both a smooth roll-out of the vaccine and the American Rescue Plan; but real success is dependent on how well we as Mayors kept our region intact during this unprecedented time and how well we work together to apply new but very temporary resources on the ground.

## **Revenue Replacement is Only the Beginning**

MRCTI worked closely with Congressional leadership and other local government groups throughout the pandemic to ensure revenue replacement was included in the American Rescue Plan, that both medium and large cities received direct payments, and the smaller cities were guaranteed a share. Shoring-up our budgets, however, is only the first step in our recovery, now we must turn to our infrastructure or we risk all we've gained.

## **Mayors of the Mississippi River can Move an Infrastructure Package More Than Most**

Because our Corridor is so crucial to the national economy, the built and natural infrastructure of our cities is paramount. Our roads, our bridges, our parks, our utilities, and our services all comprise the physical platform our economy operates on. As individual cities, our reach is limited, but as an association, we can be the urgency our leaders need to see to act.

## **MRCTI Empowers our Cities Collectively and Individually**

MRCTI is one of those very rare organizations that has a split mandate to lift our municipalities collectively as well as help each of us realize our own priorities for our towns; but we need to bring some investment back to the whole to make that mandate function.

With MRCTI, your city can receive an entire suite of project investment services including consulting, exposure to global capital, and partnerships with international organizations that elevate your town's priorities and meet your needs. Assistance with earmarks, planning, connection to new opportunities, and links into both public and private sector developments otherwise out of reach are part of what is offered to dues-paying member cities.

We hope you can join your voice to ours and together we can prevail and prosper by making this new recovery long-lasting and systemic. Unified and cooperative we can build-back-better.

Sharon Weston Broome  
Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA  
MRCTI Co-Chair

Bob Gallagher  
Mayor of Bettendorf, IA  
MRCTI Co-Chair