

April 11, 2003

Pete Johnson, Federal Co-Chair  
Delta Regional Authority  
236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400  
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As you are aware, a majority of Delta Regional Authority State Alternates have repeatedly expressed concerns on behalf of their respective Governors over the approach that you and your staff are taking towards the 2003 DRA grant process. I feel confident that these concerns have been made clear to you, the Executive Director of DRA, Hayes Dent, and other DRA staff members. I know that Armerita Tell, Mississippi's Alternate, has done so on my behalf during official DRA board meetings, at informal meetings with DRA staff, and in writing.

In spite of the Alternate's efforts, it seems apparent that you and your staff intend to pursue a grant process that operates without regard to the best interests of the states that make up the region. In response to your approach, several Governors have issued a joint letter to the State Co-Chairman of the DRA, Governor Mike Huckabee, requesting that he intervene on behalf of the states until a genuine effort is made by your staff towards reaching an agreement that is in the best interest of both the Authority and its state partners.

As the Governor of a state that has benefited tremendously from the grant program operated by the Appalachian Regional Commission, it concerns me that the Delta Regional Authority has not made a genuine effort to implement a program and process similar to this successful model. It is my hope that you will reconsider your intention to put in place a grants process that does not take into account the interests of the states and, instead, work with the Alternates to develop a process that will provide the most direct benefit to the people and communities of the Delta region.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/AT/mjb

cc: Governor Mike Huckabee