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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** LETTER TO FHWA REQUESTING FUNDS FOR GREAT RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT  
**DATE:** 3/19/2002  
**CC:** FILE

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Last week I gave you a draft letter to Mary Peters of the Federal Highway Administration requesting the reinstatement of \$7.5 million allocated to the Great River Bridge project by Congress in the FY 2002 US Department of Transportation Appropriation Act. At that time, the funds were not going to be distributed to the project because the appropriation was made from Bridge Discretionary funds and the new bridge does not meet the criteria. You asked that I reword the letter so that it did not appear as if we were favoring the Great River Bridge site as the location for the I-69 Mississippi River crossing in case constituents in surrounding areas (Rosedale, Clarksdale) favor their local site for the I-69 crossing.

I have reworded the attached draft letter to do so and to reflect the information that I received at the Great River Bridge Compact meeting. Basically, incorrect language was used in approximately 50 appropriation bills. Ms. Peters' office at FHWA is working with Congress to correct this language conflict and she has verbally reported to Mr. Flowers, Director of Highways and Transportation in Arkansas, as well as Senator Lincoln and Congressman Ross, that FHWA is holding the \$7.5 million for the Great River Bridge project until the language conflict is corrected. Thus, I changed the tone of the attached letter to that of appreciation for her assistance in this matter.

Please either sign the attached letter or mark any changes you would like made. Thanks!