

RESOLUTION NO. 1998-65  
RESOLUTION TO REQUEST CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH A SEVEN-STATE  
REGIONAL COMMISSION (DRC)

**WHEREAS**, President Clinton has sent to Congress a proposal to establish a seven-State Delta Regional Commission (DRC) designed to strengthen the economic development of the chronically impoverished lower Mississippi River. The \$26 Million proposal, contained in the President's fiscal year 1999 budget plan, mirrors a similar regional approach credited with significantly improving conditions in Appalachia; and

**WHEREAS**, under the President's proposal, the governors of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, along with a federal co-chairman, would form an eight member Delta Regional Commission. Economic development strategies for the region, program policy decisions and the targeting of resources would be jointly crafted and administered through a federal and state partnership; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delta Regional Commission would employ and "intensive care" model of economic development successfully proven in Appalachia. According to a land work study commissioned by the National Science Foundation in 1995, that effort in Appalachia has provided significantly higher incomes and population growth over similar areas not having a regional commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the funds for the Delta would require matching contributions from public and private sector sources. Local participation in the selection, the development and the evaluation of projects is mandated by the President's proposal for the region; and

**WHEREAS**, economic development investments likely to be targeted for the region includes: job training and entrepreneur programs, infrastructure needs such as clean water, sewer service, access roads, industrial and business parks, rural health efforts, housing, community leadership projects, and a flexible range of other activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the new funds proposed by the President for the Delta roughly match the Appalachian program per capita investment. The proposed budget would include support for multi-county districts, known as local development districts (LDD) and technical assistance; and

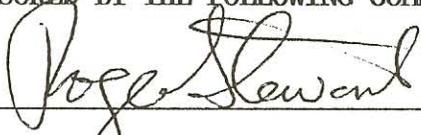
**WHEREAS**, the proposal directs the Delta Region Commission to "capitalize on the rich body of experience" of the Appalachian Regional Commission model and minimize administrative costs by sharing its presidentially appointed co-chairman, currently Dr. Jesse L. White, Jr., a Mississippi native. In all other matters, the two organizations would operate as separate regional development entities; and

**WHEREAS**, the boundary of the DRC would be identical to that of the 1988 Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, which was convened by then President Bush and shared by then Arkansas Governor Clinton. The number of counties and parishes included in the region are: Arkansas (42); Illinois (16); Kentucky (21); Louisiana (45); Missouri (29), and Tennessee (21).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Weakley County Legislative Body meeting in regular session on this the 16th day of March, 1998, requests approval of this proposal by Congress.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this resolution be mailed to each member of our Congressional and Legislative delegations by the Weakley County Clerk.

**PURSUANT TO THE RULES OF THE WEAKLEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY, THIS RESOLUTION IS SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:**





ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPROVED:

Northwest Tennessee Development District Resolution

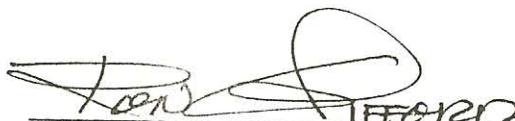
Motion was made by Commissioner Dunn that the foregoing and hereto attached Resolution be approved. Seconded by Commissioner Salmon. Upon being put to a roll call vote, motion carried by a vote of:

AYE 17 NAY no PASS no ABSENT 3

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PAT SCARBROUGH, COUNTY CLERK

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RON GIFFORD, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

This the 16th day of March, 1998.