

### State of Mississippi

### Governor MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

May 1, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center

Honorable Trent Kelly,

Visit Mississippi, the official tourism organization of the State of Mississippi, wholeheartedly supports the Chickasaw Nation's request for \$16,000,000 in federal funding to complete the construction of the Chickasaw Heritage Center. We believe this project aligns perfectly with our mission to promote cultural heritage tourism and showcase the unique diversity of Mississippi's rich history.

The Chickasaw Nation's story is deeply intertwined with the narrative of Mississippi. Their presence in the state predates European contact, and their history is inextricably linked to the development of the region.

While Mississippi boasts diverse cultural attractions like Blues, Civil War, Civil Rights museums and trails, the Chickasaw Heritage Center will offer a vital perspective often missing from the state's historical narrative. This will enrich the visitor experience by providing a more comprehensive understanding of the state's past. The center's focus will be on the history and culture of the Chickasaw people from their perspective. This will diversify Mississippi's tourism landscape and attract a new generation of culturally curious travelers.

Beyond its cultural significance, the Chickasaw Heritage Center is projected to significantly contribute to the state's economy. Estimates forecast an annual economic impact of \$5.6 million to \$6 million and the creation of at least 25 permanent jobs. This economic stimulus will benefit not only the immediate community but also the state as a whole.

Visit Mississippi strongly supports the collaborative spirit behind this project. The substantial financial contributions from the Chickasaw Nation, the City of Tupelo, and the State of Mississippi demonstrate a unified commitment to realizing this project's potential. We believe the Chickasaw Heritage Center will be a transformative landmark, enriching the cultural landscape of Mississippi and attracting visitors from across the nation.

We urge your approval of the Chickasaw Nation's request for federal funding. The Chickasaw Heritage Center has the potential to be a game-changer for cultural heritage tourism in Mississippi, enriching the visitor experience, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and contributing significantly to the state's economic well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rochelle H. Hiche

Sincerely,

Rochelle Hicks

Director, Visit Mississippi

To: The Honorable Trent Kelly

2243 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D. C. 20515

From: Mary Cates Williams, Executive Director,

Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance

Date: May 1, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center

The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance (MHHAA) wholeheartedly supports the Chickasaw Nation's request for \$16,000,000 in federal funding to complete the construction of the Chickasaw Heritage Center. We strongly believe this project aligns with our mission to promote cultural heritage tourism and economic development within the Mississippi Hills region.

The Chickasaw Heritage Center presents a unique opportunity to:

- Enhance Cultural Heritage Tourism: The center's location on the Natchez Trace Parkway, coupled with its focus on sharing the rich history and culture of the Chickasaw people, positions it to attract a significant number of visitors. This influx of visitors will generate new revenue streams for local businesses, bolstering the regional economy.
- Promote Cultural Understanding: By providing a platform for the Chickasaw Nation to share their history and culture in their voice, the center will foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for their unique heritage. This will contribute to a more inclusive and diverse cultural landscape within the Mississippi Hills region.
- Stimulate Economic Growth: The estimated annual economic impact of \$5.6 million to \$6 million and the creation of at least 25 permanent jobs highlight the center's potential to significantly contribute to the economic well-being of the region.

The MHHAA recognizes the collaborative spirit behind this project, with the Chickasaw Nation, the City of Tupelo, and the State of Mississippi demonstrating their unwavering commitment through substantial financial contributions. This collaborative approach strengthens the project's viability and underscores its potential to benefit the entire community.

We urge you to approve the Chickasaw Nation's request for federal funding. The Chickasaw Heritage Center has the potential to be a transformative landmark, enriching the lives of residents and visitors alike while contributing significantly to the cultural and economic landscape of the Mississippi Hills region.

Sincerely,

Mary Cates Williams, Executive Director

Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance marycates@mshills.org (662) 816-2272



# State of Mississippi Office of the Lieutenant Governor DELBERT HOSEMANN

DELBERT HOSEMANI
Lieutenant Governor

February 28, 2024

Honorable Trent Kelly
U. S. Representative, Mississippi

Re: Letter of Support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center

Congressman Kelly:

I am writing to express my support for the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's Chickasaw Heritage Center project and their request for federal funding.

The Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's vision for this center aligns perfectly with the State of Mississippi's commitment to cultural preservation and economic development. We recognize the immense value of this project and its potential to leave a lasting positive impact on our state.

The Chickasaw Heritage Center will serve as a vital educational resource, offering visitors and residents alike a unique opportunity to learn about the rich history and vibrant culture of the Chickasaw people. This center will provide an opportunity for the Chickasaw people to share their own narrative.

Beyond its cultural significance, the center is projected to be a significant economic driver for the state. Its strategic location on the heavily trafficked Natchez Trace Parkway, attracting an estimated 100,000 visitors annually, has the potential to significantly boost cultural heritage tourism throughout Mississippi. The economic impact is further amplified by the creation of at least 25 permanent jobs and an annual economic impact estimated between \$5.6 million and \$6 million.

The State of Mississippi has already demonstrated its commitment to this project by authorizing \$16,000,000 towards its construction. We believe this collaborative effort between the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation, Chickasaw Nation, the City of Tupelo, and the State of Mississippi, and the federal government exemplifies a strong partnership dedicated to realizing a shared vision.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We encourage you to join us in supporting this endeavor.

Sincerely

Delbert Hosemann, Jr. Lieutenant Governor State of Mississippi



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Trent Kelly United States Representative for Mississippi 2243 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Letter of Support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center

Dear Representative Kelly:

The Community Development Foundation based in Tupelo, Mississippi, strongly supports the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for \$16 million in federal funding to complete the construction of the Chickasaw Heritage Center. We believe this project aligns perfectly with our mission to promote economic development, cultural heritage tourism and showcase the unique diversity of Mississippi's rich history.

The Chickasaw Nation's story is deeply intertwined with the history of Mississippi. Their presence in the state predates European contact, and their history is inextricably linked to the development of the region.

While Mississippi boasts diverse cultural attractions like Blues, Civil War, Civil Rights museums and trails, the Chickasaw Heritage Center will offer a vital perspective often missing from the state's historical narrative. This will enrich the visitor experience by providing a more comprehensive understanding of the region's past. The center's focus on the history and culture of the Chickasaw people from their perspective will diversify Mississippi's tourism landscape and attract a new generation of culturally curious travelers.

Beyond its cultural significance, the Chickasaw Heritage Center is projected to significantly contribute to the state's economy. Estimates forecast an annual economic impact of \$5.6 million to \$6 million and the creation of at least twenty-five permanent jobs. This economic stimulus will benefit not only the immediate community but also the state.

The Community Development Foundation strongly supports the collaborative spirit behind this project. The substantial financial contributions from the Chickasaw Nation, the City of Tupelo, and the State of Mississippi and private donors demonstrate a unified commitment to realizing this project. We believe the Chickasaw Heritage Center will be a transformative landmark, enriching the cultural landscape of Mississippi and attracting visitors from across the nation.

We urge your approval of the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for federal funding. The Chickasaw Heritage Center will be the significant change for

The Honorable Trent Kelly March 12, 2024 Page Two

cultural heritage tourism in Mississippi, enriching the visitor experience, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and contributing significantly to the state's economic well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

David P. Rumbarder

President/CEO



February 29, 2024

### To Whom It May Concern:

The Chickasaw people are an integral part of Mississippi's rich history. Too often, their story, as well as those of other First American groups, has been told by others. The proposed Chickasaw Heritage Center will enable the Chickasaw to preserve and share their history from their own perspective, furthering knowledge of their resilience and the complexities of our shared past.

The center will also have a tremendous economic impact on Mississippi. It will draw visitors from across the country and provide them with a deeper understanding of the Chickasaw story. It will enhance the state's cultural heritage tourism, thereby having a positive impact on other sites across Mississippi.

This Mississippi Humanities Council is very excited to work with the Chickasaw Heritage Center once it is completed. We have partnered with the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation in the past and look forward to supporting the robust public programming they have planned for the new center. The Mississippi Humanities Council was founded in 1972 to support public programs across Mississippi that educate people about our history and culture. We consider Chickasaw heritage as a vital part of that history.

We therefore support the Chickasaw Heritage Center. We urge you to support funding that is vital to the completion of this transformative project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stuart Rockoff Executive Director

Mississippi Humanities Council

The Mississippi Humanities Council

Chair

Preselfannie McDaniels JACKSON

Vice Chair

Douglass Sullivan-González
OXFORD

Secretary

Ebony Lumumba

Treasurer
Ronnie Nettles
BRANDON

Melanie Deas

Mary Graham PERKINSTON

Kathy Henry\*

Lakeysha Greer Isaac

Betty Lou Jones\*

Tim Lampkin CLARKSDALE

Holly Lange\*

Brian Perry\*
JACKSON

Amanda Clay Powers COLUMBUS

William "Brother" Rogers BRANDON

Donald Shaffer STARKVILLE

Temika Simmons GREENVILLE

Deanne Stephens

Ivy Taylor HOLLY SPRINGS

Mark Tullos MERIDIAN

Sheila Varnado HATTIESBURG

Carla Wall

Shannon Warnock\*

\*Governor's Appointees

etass.

Executive Director
Stuart Rockoff

Assistant Director
Carol Andersen

Program Officer
Molly McMillan

Program & Outreach Officer
John Spann

Communications Manager
Kam Ridley

**Project Coordinator**Carla Falkner

Office Administrator
Evan Jones



850 Insight Park Avenue, Suite 135 University, MS 38677 www.mississippihills.org

To: The Honorable Trent Kelly

2243 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D. C. 20515

From: Mary Cates Williams, Executive Director,

Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance

Date: March 1, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center

The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance (MHHAA), the local coordinating entity for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, wholeheartedly supports the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for \$16,000,000 in federal funding to complete the construction of the Chickasaw Heritage Center.

We strongly believe this project aligns with our mission to promote cultural heritage tourism and economic development within the Mississippi Hills region, which is comprised of 19 full counties and portions of 11 others. Since 2016, MHHAA has awarded almost \$2 million in grants and special projects to communities within the heritage area. Our current local members include Booneville Main Street, Chickasaw County, Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation, Corinth Area CVB, Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau, Pontotoc Co. Chamber and Main Street, City of New Albany / Union County Heritage Museum, Visit Oxford / University of MS, Ripley Main Street, Starkville CVB, Tishomingo County Tourism, Tupelo CVB and Water Valley Main Street.

The Chickasaw Heritage Center presents a unique opportunity to:

- Enhance Cultural Heritage Tourism: The center's location on the Natchez Trace Parkway, coupled with its focus on sharing the rich history and culture of the Chickasaw people, positions it to attract a significant number of visitors. This influx of visitors will generate new revenue streams for local businesses, bolstering the regional economy.
- **Promote Cultural Understanding:** By providing a platform for the Chickasaw Nation to share their history and culture in their voice, the center will foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for their unique heritage. This will contribute to a more inclusive and diverse cultural landscape within the Mississippi Hills region.
- Stimulate Economic Growth: The estimated annual economic impact of \$5.6 million to \$6 million and the creation of at least 25 permanent jobs highlight the center's potential to significantly contribute to the economic well-being of the region.

The MHHAA recognizes the collaborative spirit behind this project, with the Chickasaw Nation, the City of Tupelo, and the State of Mississippi demonstrating their unwavering commitment through substantial financial contributions. This collaborative approach strengthens the project's viability and underscores its potential to benefit the entire community. The MHHAA has thus far committed to provide \$70,000 in grants for exhibit and program development, and will strongly consider additional funding in the future.

We urge you to approve the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for federal funding. The Chickasaw Heritage Center has the potential to be a transformative landmark, enriching the lives of residents and visitors alike while contributing significantly to the cultural and economic landscape of the Mississippi Hills region.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Cates Williams

Executive Director, Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance

marycates@mshills.org

(662) 816-2272



## City of Tupelo

### Todd Jordan Mayor

COUNCIL

Chad Mims Ward One

Lynn Bryan Ward Two

Travis Beard Ward Three

Nettie Y. Davis Ward Four

Buddy Palmer Ward Five

Janet Gaston Ward Six

Rosie Jones Ward Seven To: The Honorable Trent Kelly

From: Todd Jordan, Mayor, City of Tupelo, Mississippi

Date: February 22, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's Chickasaw Heritage Center project and urge your favorable consideration of their request for \$16,000,000 in federal funding.

The Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's strong partnership with the Chickasaw Nation and their dedication to preserving the cultural heritage of the Chickasaw people and sharing it with the world aligns perfectly with the City of Tupelo's vision of fostering a vibrant and inclusive community. The center will not only serve as a vital educational resource, but also act as a powerful economic driver, attracting visitors and stimulating tourism within our city and the state of Mississippi.

The City of Tupelo has already demonstrated its commitment to this project by providing over \$1,400,000 for the construction of access roads. We believe the Chickasaw Heritage Center has the potential to be a transformative landmark, enriching the lives of residents and visitors alike.

The strategic location on the Natchez Trace Parkway, coupled with the Foundation's commitment to creating a world-class heritage center, positions this project for exceptional success. I am confident that the center will attract over 100,000 visitors annually, generating significant economic benefits for our region.

Furthermore, the Chickasaw Nation's cultural perspective is invaluable and deserves to be shared accurately and authentically. The center will provide a platform for correcting historical inaccuracies and fostering a deeper understanding of the Chickasaw people's unique history and traditions.

I urge you to join us in supporting the completion of the Chickasaw Heritage Center. Your \$16,000,000 contribution will be instrumental in realizing this remarkable project and its lasting impact on our community, the state and the nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John

Sincerely,

Fodd Jordan

Mayor, City of Tupelo, Mississippi



To: Members of the United States Congress

From: Stephanie Coomer

**Date**: March 1, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center

The Tupelo Convention & Visitors Bureau enthusiastically supports the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for \$16,000,000 in federal funding to complete the construction of the Chickasaw Heritage Center. We believe this project will significantly enhance the cultural heritage tourism landscape of our region and contribute to its overall economic development.

While our city has attractions celebrating the Chickasaw legacy, the proposed Heritage Center presents a unique opportunity to:

- Offer a Comprehensive and Authentic Experience: The center's focus on sharing the Chickasaw story from their own perspective will provide visitors with a deeper and more nuanced understanding of their rich history and culture, complementing existing offerings in the region.
- Attract a Wider Audience: The center's strategic location and focus on cultural immersion will attract a broader range of visitors interested in experiencing authentic cultural heritage, potentially extending their stay and exploring other attractions in the region.
- Strengthen Collaboration and Partnerships: The center's establishment fosters collaboration between various cultural institutions and tourism entities within the region, allowing for the development of comprehensive itineraries and enriching the overall visitor experience.

We recognize the potential of the Chickasaw Heritage Center to:

- Elevate the Region's Cultural Tourism Appeal: The center's world-class facilities and focus on authentic storytelling will position the region as a premier destination for cultural heritage tourism, attracting visitors not just to Tupelo but also to neighboring communities.
- Stimulate Economic Growth: Increased visitor traffic translates to increased revenue for local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, shops, and service providers, contributing significantly to the economic well-being of the entire region.

The Tupelo Convention & Visitors Bureau applauds the collaborative effort behind this project, with the Chickasaw Nation, the City of Tupelo, and the State of Mississippi among others demonstrating their commitment through substantial financial





contributions. This collaborative spirit strengthens the project's potential for success and ensures its positive impact on the entire region.

We urge you to approve the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for federal funding. The Chickasaw Heritage Center has the potential to be a transformative landmark, not only for Tupelo but for the entire region, enriching the cultural landscape and stimulating economic growth for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Stephanie Coomer Executive Director

Stephanie Coomer

Tupelo Convention & Visitors Bureau



February 28, 2024

#### To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the City of New Albany, Mississippi, to express our wholehearted support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center Development Project. As stewards of our community's cultural and historical heritage, we recognize the immense significance of preserving and promoting the rich legacy of the Chickasaw Nation.

The proposed Chickasaw Heritage Center represents a vital initiative that not only celebrates the vibrant history and traditions of the Chickasaw people but also serves as a beacon of education, cultural exchange, and economic development by attracting visitors from near and far. The Heritage Center will create opportunities for local businesses, stimulate tourism-related industries, and generate revenue streams that benefit our entire community.

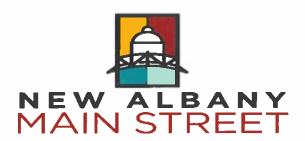
Through interactive exhibits, educational programs, and community outreach initiatives, the Heritage Center promises to be a catalyst for fostering greater understanding, appreciation, and collaboration among diverse communities.

Furthermore, we understand that federal funding plays a crucial role in realizing the vision of the Chickasaw Heritage Center. Therefore, we urge the relevant authorities to consider this project favorably and provide the necessary support to ensure its successful implementation. By investing in the Chickasaw Heritage Center, the federal government will not only uphold its commitment to preserving Native American heritage but also demonstrate its dedication to fostering inclusive cultural initiatives that unite us as a nation.

In conclusion, the City of New Albany wholeheartedly endorses the Chickasaw Heritage Center Development Project and pledges its unwavering support to make this visionary endeavor a reality. We are confident that the Heritage Center will serve as a lasting tribute to the enduring legacy of the Chickasaw Nation and a source of pride for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further assistance or information.

Sincerely, Mayor Tim Kent New Albany, MS



February 28, 2024

### To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of New Albany Main Street to express our enthusiastic support for the funding application for the development of the Chickasaw Heritage Center. As a vital organization committed to the preservation and promotion of our community's cultural heritage and economic development, we recognize the tremendous value that the Chickasaw Heritage Center project holds for our city and its residents.

By providing a dedicated space for educational programs, exhibits, and events, the Heritage Center will serve as a beacon for cultural exchange and understanding, fostering greater appreciation and respect for the Chickasaw people and their contributions to our community.

Furthermore, we believe that the development of the Chickasaw Heritage Center aligns perfectly with the goals and objectives of New Albany Main Street. Through our ongoing efforts to revitalize downtown New Albany and promote heritage tourism, we recognize the importance of investing in projects that enhance our cultural assets and attract visitors to our city. The Chickasaw Heritage Center has the potential to become a cornerstone of our downtown revitalization efforts, drawing tourists and residents alike to explore our community's vibrant history and cultural diversity.

We are confident that with the necessary funding support, the Chickasaw Heritage Center will not only become a source of pride for our community but also a catalyst for economic development and cultural enrichment. Therefore, we wholeheartedly endorse the funding application and urge you to give it your full consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

#### Billye Jean Stroud

Director of Community Development and Main Street
135 East Bankhead Street New Albany, MS 38652
662-534-3438 (office) 662-317-0405 (cell)
billyejeanstroud@newalbanymainstreet.com
www.newalbanymainstreet.com
www.visitnewalbany.com

To: Members of the United States Congress

From: Jill N. Smith, Director, Union County Heritage Museum, New Albany, MS

Date: February 27, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center

The Board of Director and Staff of the Union County Historical Society & Heritage Museum enthusiastically support the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for \$16,000,000 in federal funding to complete the construction of the Chickasaw Heritage Center. We believe this project will significantly enhance the cultural heritage tourism landscape of our region and contribute to its overall economic development.

While our city has attractions celebrating the Chickasaw legacy, the proposed Heritage Center presents a unique opportunity to:

- Offer a Comprehensive and Authentic Experience: The center's focus on sharing the Chickasaw story from their own perspective will provide visitors with a deeper and more nuanced understanding of their rich history and culture, complementing existing offerings in the region.
- Attract a Wider Audience: The center's strategic location and focus on cultural immersion will attract a broader range of visitors interested in experiencing authentic cultural heritage, potentially extending their stay and exploring other attractions in the region.
- Strengthen Collaboration and Partnerships: The center's establishment fosters collaboration between various cultural institutions and tourism entities within the region, allowing for the development of comprehensive itineraries and enriching the overall visitor experience.

We recognize the potential of the Chickasaw Heritage Center to:

- Elevate the Region's Cultural Tourism Appeal: The center's world-class facilities and focus on authentic storytelling will position the region as a premier destination for cultural heritage tourism, attracting visitors not just to (City) but also to neighboring communities.
- Stimulate Economic Growth: Increased visitor traffic translates to increased revenue for local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, shops, and service providers, contributing significantly to the economic well-being of the entire region.

The Union County Heritage Museum applauds the collaborative effort behind this project, with the Chickasaw Nation, the City of Tupelo, and the State of Mississippi among others demonstrating their commitment through substantial financial contributions. This collaborative spirit strengthens the project's potential for success and ensures its positive impact on the entire region.

We urge you to approve the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for federal funding. The Chickasaw Heritage Center has the potential to be a transformative landmark, not only for Tupelo but for the entire region, enriching the cultural landscape and stimulating economic growth for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jill N. Smith

Director

Union County Heritage Museum

114 Cleveland St.

New Albany, MS 38652

662-538-0014

662-316-1129



To: Members of the United States Congress

From: Elizabeth Behm, Director, Visit Ripley and Ripley Main Street Association

Date: March 1, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for the Chickasaw Heritage Center

The Visit Ripley Tourism Council enthusiastically supports the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for \$16,000,000 in federal funding to complete the construction of the Chickasaw Heritage Center. We believe this project will significantly enhance our region's cultural heritage tourism landscape and contribute to its overall economic development.

While our city has attractions celebrating the Chickasaw legacy, the proposed Heritage Center presents a unique opportunity to:

- Offer a Comprehensive and Authentic Experience: The center's focus on sharing the Chickasaw story from their own perspective will provide visitors with a deeper and more nuanced understanding of their rich history and culture, complementing existing regional offerings.
- Attract a Wider Audience: The center's strategic location and focus on cultural immersion will attract a broader range of visitors interested in experiencing authentic cultural heritage, potentially extending their stay and exploring other attractions in the region.
- Strengthen Collaboration and Partnerships: The center's establishment fosters collaboration between various cultural institutions and tourism entities within the region, allowing for the development of comprehensive itineraries and enriching the overall visitor experience.

We recognize the potential of the Chickasaw Heritage Center to:

- Elevate the Region's Cultural Tourism Appeal: The center's world-class facilities and focus on authentic storytelling will position the region as a premier destination for cultural heritage tourism, attracting visitors not just to (City) but also to neighboring communities.
- Stimulate Economic Growth: Increased visitor traffic translates to increased revenue for local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, shops, and service

providers, contributing significantly to the economic well-being of the entire region.

Visit Ripley applauds the collaborative effort behind this project, with the Chickasaw Nation, the City of Tupelo, and the State of Mississippi among others demonstrating their commitment through substantial financial contributions. This collaborative spirit strengthens the project's potential for success and ensures its positive impact on the entire region.

We urge you to approve the Chickasaw Inkana Foundation's request for federal funding. The Chickasaw Heritage Center has the potential to be a transformative landmark, not only for Tupelo but for the entire region, enriching the cultural landscape and stimulating economic growth for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration, .

Elizabeth Behm

Executive Director Visit Ripley

Ripley Main Street Association