



January 25, 2019

Bi-State Regional Commission
Denise Bulat
1504 3rd Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

RE: Federal Aid Swap Program

Dear Denise,

On behalf of the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, I request Bi-State Regional Commission to fully consider the impact of the Federal Aid Swap program recently adopted by the State of Iowa. Based on the negative economic impact, the Quad Cities Chamber asks that Bi-State Regional Commission opt-out of the program.

The State of Iowa recently adopted the Federal Aid Swap program and applied it statewide. Every jurisdiction in Iowa is included in this program unless the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) opts out. As the MPO for the Quad Cities region, Bi-State Regional Commission has the responsibility for determining whether to be part of the program.

The Federal Aid Swap program allows state dollars to replace federal dollars on projects, and as a result federal guidelines and protections would no longer be applicable. We understand that some of these guidelines can be onerous, and if eliminated, could expedite project completion. However, there are certain protections that we believe are critical to advancing the Quad Cities economy. Many local contractors follow these federal guidelines to ensure their workers are paid a competitive wage and are protected against discriminatory practices. By participating in the Federal Aid Swap program, Bi-State Regional Commission may allow for more businesses from outside the Quad Cities region that don't follow these guidelines to garner work, which would have a direct negative economic impact on our region. Our elected officials have increased federal funding for Quad Cities projects in recent years, and it's important that we retain as much of this funding in the region as possible to maximize the economic impact.

Our region's businesses are vital to the growth of the Quad Cities economy and we ask you to ensure they have the best opportunity possible to acquire local projects. Taking no action is the same as voting to opt-in to the program. Therefore, we respectfully ask the Bi-State Regional Commission to opt-out of the Federal Aid Swap Program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Tyler Power, Government Affairs Manager. Thanks for your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rumler', with a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Rumler
President & CEO
Quad Cities Chamber