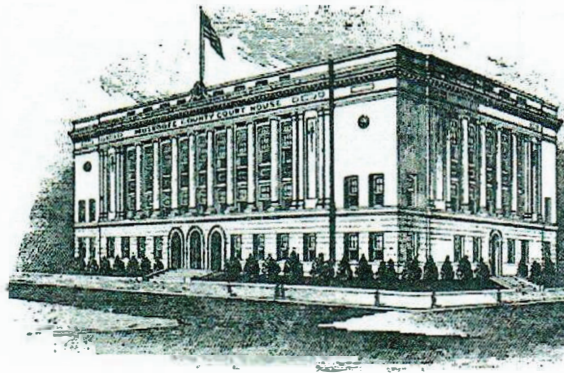


**KEN DOKE**  
MUSKOGEE CO. DISTRICT 1

**KEITH HYSLOP**  
MUSKOGEE CO. DISTRICT 2

**KENNY PAYNE**  
MUSKOGEE CO. DISTRICT 3



**POLLY IRVING**  
COUNTY CLERK



**SHEILA SHAMBLIN**  
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## **MUSKOGEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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I am writing to express support for the joint application between Port Muskogee and Tulsa Ports for the 2024 Maritime Administration Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant. As Chairman of the Muskogee Board of County Commissioners, I recognize the critical importance of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) to our local and regional economy.

The MKARNS serves as a primary waterway for freight transportation in the State of Oklahoma, and the proposed MKARNS Moorings Modernization Project will provide essential improvements to waterway infrastructure. Specifically, this joint project will replace outdated and structurally deficient mooring structures at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa and Port Muskogee, ensuring safe and reliable access to barges under all water levels and weather conditions.

Muskogee County is home to over 67,000 residents and relies heavily on the economic benefits of the Port Muskogee and the MKARNS. The modernized mooring infrastructure resulting from this project will enable safe harbor for mariners, increase reliability of structures in the event of a flood, and ensure the Oklahoma segment of the MKARNS can continue to support the over 22,000 full and part-time jobs it provides.

The joint application between Port Muskogee and Tulsa Ports is a testament to the collaboration and partnership necessary for success in our region. We fully endorse this project and its efforts to improve the overall safety, reliability, and resiliency of the MKARNS waterway.

Ken Doke, Chairman

Thank you for your consideration.  
Muskogee Board of County Commissioners