

An aerial photograph of a wide, winding river, likely the Mississippi River, flowing through a vast, densely forested landscape. The river is a deep blue color, contrasting with the green and brown tones of the surrounding forest. The river meanders across the frame, creating several large, rounded bends. The forest appears to be a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees, with some areas showing more vibrant green and others more muted brown. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, suggesting a clear day. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed landscape.

Mississippi River Restoration & Resilience Initiative (MRRRI)

Questions to be answered today...

Why... why is it time for a new vision for the Mississippi River?

What... what *is* the Mississippi River Restoration & Resilience Initiative (or “MRRRI”)?

How... how will MRRRI work on justice & equity?

Who... who is involved so far?

Where... where can I find more information?

How... how do I get involved?

Why is it time for a new vision?

The
Mississippi
River is
culturally
important




The River is important for our **economy**

1.5 million jobs

\$500 billion in
revenue





**Drinking
water for 20
million
people**

The
Mississippi
River is
essential
habitat



**And yet... the Mississippi River is
at risk**



Degraded water quality

Our River communities are more vulnerable to **floods, hurricanes, and other catastrophic weather events**





Aquatic
invasive
species



Erosion

Gulf Dead Zone

It's time... for MRRRI



Comprehensive
Everglades
Restoration Plan



Great Lakes
Restoration
Initiative



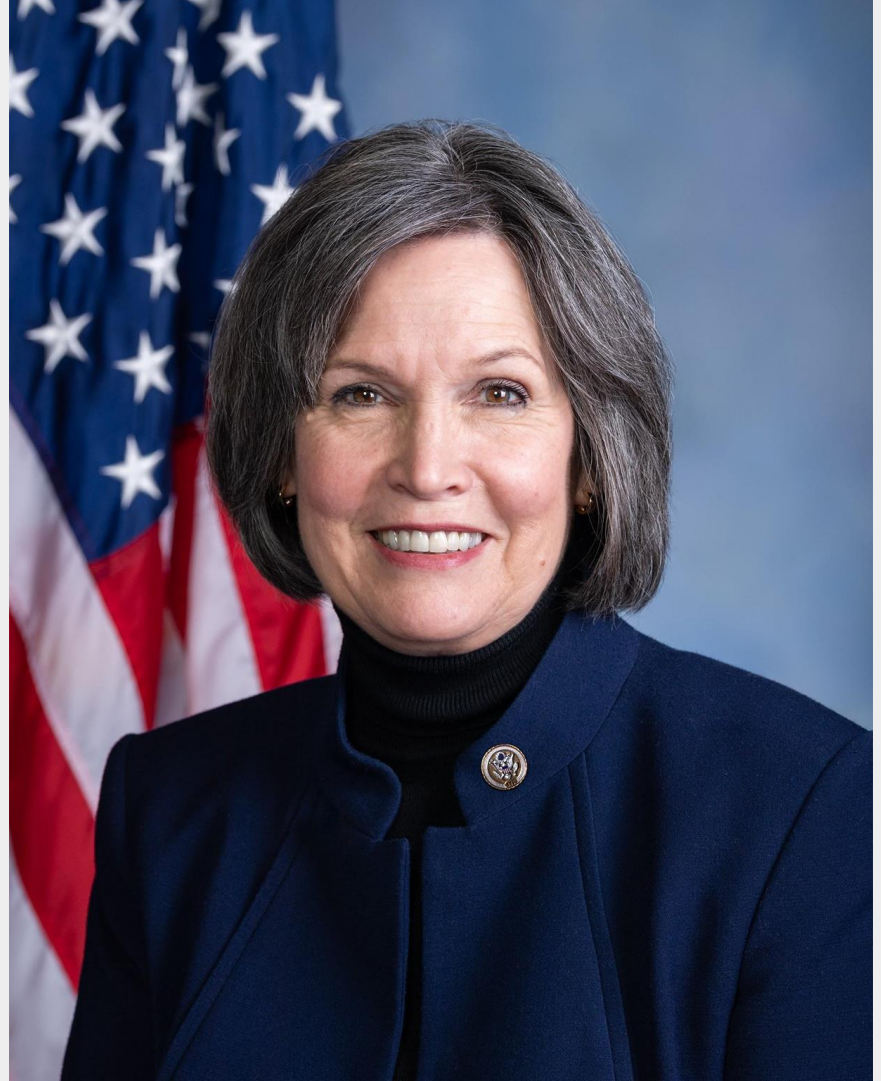
Chesapeake Bay
Program



**Mississippi
River
Restoration &
Resilience
Initiative**

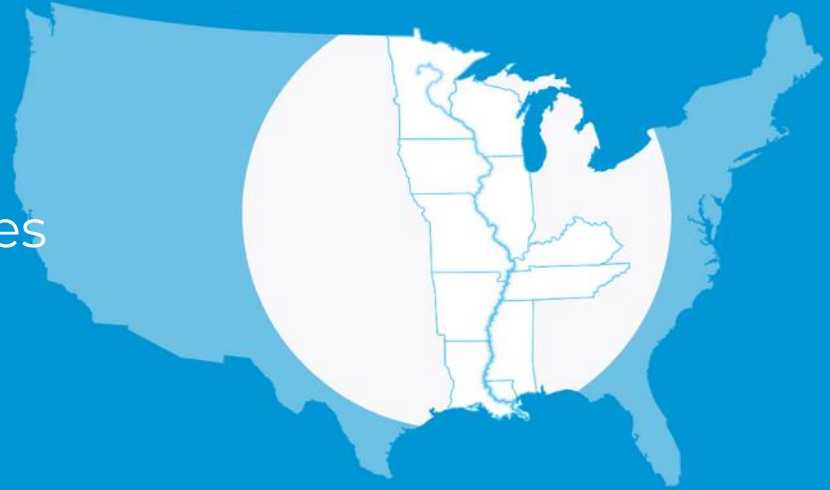
MRRRI's
House
Champion:
Rep. Betty
McCollum

H.R 4202



Mississippi River Restoration & Resilience Initiative

- Voluntary, non-regulatory
- \$300-\$350 million / yr.
Federal funding
- Mainstem river states and tribes
- Grants & partnership program
 - Governments (state, regional, local)
 - Tribes and tribal governments
 - Nonprofits
 - Partnerships
 - Other entities



MRRRI has 4 Focus Areas



**Clean
Water**




**River
Corridor
Habitat**



**Natural
Infrastructure**



**Aquatic
Invasive
Species**



MRRRI Focus Area: Improve water quality

Two Main Buckets:

- Urban runoff
- Cropland runoff

A photograph of two pelicans in a natural setting. One pelican is in flight in the upper left, showing its white body and dark wings. The other is swimming in the water in the lower right. The background consists of a blue body of water and a line of green trees under a clear sky.

MRRRI Focus Area: Habitat Restoration

Including programs that...

- Restore wetlands
- Support in-stream habitats
- Reconnect side channels
- Supports living shorelines
- *And more!*



MRRRI Focus Area: Natural Infrastructure

Investments that restore the River's floodplain access through projects such as...

- Voluntary easements
- Levee modification or removal
- Responsible sediment transportation
- *And more!*



**MRRRI Focus Area:
Aquatic Invasive Species**

MRRRI Action Plan



MRRRI Science Plan



**How will MRRRI address
justice & equity?**

- Build Understanding
- Establish Equity Fund
- Widen The Circle
- Lift Up All Voices



Equity

25% + 10%

At least 25 % of MRRRI funds will be directed to low-income rural & urban communities and communities of color, plus an additional 10% directed to communities that experience persistent poverty.

MRRRI Collaborative



MRRRI Collaborative Steering Committee



MRRRI Collaborative Campaign Committee

NWF: legislative, policy strategy

FMR: communications

MRN: organizing and outreach



10 MRRRI State Leads



Moving MRRRI Forward

MRRRI is taking shape



Congress



Federal agencies



Collaborate on an
Action Plan



We restore
Mississippi River

Cong. McCollum's goal: Congress and Biden sign
MRRRI into law **this year.**

Where can I find more info? How do I get involved?

- **Learn More:** <https://mississippiriver.org/mrrri> & <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/hr4202>
- **Endorse MRRRI:** <https://bit.ly/EndorseMRRRI>
- **Mayoral Outreach:** <https://bit.ly/MayorsForMRRRI>
- **Join the MRRRI listserve:** trussell@fmr.org
[@fmr.org](mailto:fmr@fmr.org)
- **Share our Congressional Action Alert:** <https://1mississippi.org/action-center-2/>



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- ✓ **What...** what *is* the Mississippi River Restoration & Resilience Initiative (or “MRRRI”)?
- ✓ **Who...** who is involved so far?
- ✓ **Where...** where can I find more information?
- ✓ **How...** will MRRRI work on justice & equity?
- ✓ **How...** do I get involved?



Thank you!

We look forward to continuing
this conversation!

Q&A