

# FLORENTINE FILMS

September 9, 2010

James L. Mathewson, Chairman  
Missouri Gaming Commission  
3417 Knipp Drive, PO Box 1847  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Mathewson,

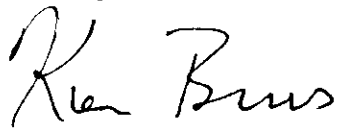
The history of our nation is written not only by the people who lived it, but shaped by the very land itself. Many of the films I've produced – *The West*, *Lewis & Clark*, *Mark Twain*, and especially *The National Parks* – have convinced me that the sheer physicality of this great continent we inhabit has played a crucial role in what kind of people and nation we became.

Nowhere is this more true than in the heart of America, where two of the world's mightiest rivers – the Missouri and the Mississippi – come together. It was where the Lewis and Clark expedition began, and where it ended. It was where Samuel Clemens became Mark Twain. And it was where so many other epic American stories got their start: from the fur traders and mountain men to the pioneers and 49ers, from the steamboat era to the Civil War, from America's pastime – baseball – to America's unique music – jazz and the blues.

But the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi has a value that transcends history. It is a sanctuary for wildlife. And it is a place of beauty, a sanctuary for the soul, where we can refresh our spirits and reconnect with the natural world.

Places of such significance deserve to be cherished and preserved, as Theodore Roosevelt taught us, "for our children and our children's children, with their majestic beauty all unmarred."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Burns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Burns