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January 7, 2016

Representative Diane Franklin  
Missouri House of Representatives  
201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 206B  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

**RE: House Bill 1960 for an Independent and Professional Water Patrol**

Dear Representative Franklin:

On behalf of the City of Osage Beach, thank you for introducing HB 1960 to reverse the 2011 Water Patrol merger with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. That merger has impaired the safety of residents and visitors to the area who love and use the Lake of the Ozarks. Only an independent Water Patrol, with a clear mission can be intently focus on the unique challenges of boating safety and law enforcement on the water. Missouri must return to the days of an autonomous, professionally managed and nationally recognized State Water Patrol.

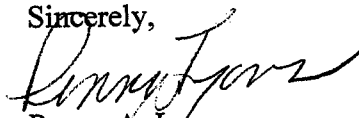
Your proposal to detach the Water Patrol administrative, facilities and equipment operations from the Highway Patrol makes sense. Your committee's review of the situation has brought to light the need for a return to an independent Water Patrol.

Our Lake of the Ozarks is one of the crown jewels of Missouri's recreational and second home communities and the safety and security of our residents and visitors is an issue of primary importance for all levels of government.

We look forward to working with you this year on this critical public safety issue. When you need our help or our voices, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Penny A. Lyons  
Mayor

cc: Board of Aldermen  
City Administrator