



## Ken Taylor, District Three Jackson County Board of Supervisors

Post Office Box 998 | 2915 Canty Street | PASCAGOULA, MS 39568  
OFFICE: 228-762-7641 | FAX: 228-769-3363  
Email: ken\_taylor@co.jackson.ms.us

March 15, 2023

Dr. Julie Jordan  
Vice President, Research & Economic Development  
Mississippi State University  
Post Office Box 6343  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dear Dr. Jordan,

On behalf of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, I am glad to extend this letter of support for Mississippi State University's (MSU) Mississippi Maritime Autonomous Systems Testbed (MMAST) facility envisioned at Jackson County's Singing River Island.

Jackson County is currently home to some of Mississippi's largest and most technically advanced employers including both Northrup Grumman and Ingalls Shipbuilding – a Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries. Additionally, Jackson County is also home to one of Mississippi's largest ports at the Port of Pascagoula and busiest airports at Trent-Lott International Airport. Across all these groups, I see tremendous potential for collaboration, job creation, and economic growth through partnership with the MSU MMAST facility.

Additionally, I strongly support the MSU MMAST facility as I believe it to be a premier addition to Jackson County's Singing River Island where the MMAST is currently envisioned. The existing infrastructure at Singing River Island perfectly complements the MSU MMAST facility and would enable streamlined, shovel-ready construction to begin quickly and efficiently if Federal support is obtained. Furthermore, in addition to the entities named above, Singing River Island is specifically home to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Station Pascagoula, whom I also see as a prime user and beneficiary of the MMAST facility.

It's very clear that autonomous systems technologies already serve in vital roles across both public and private industry sectors. I believe the role of these technologies will continue to grow exponentially, and I would very much like to see Jackson County, Mississippi become the epicenter of this growth through investment and support of the MMAST facility at Singing River Island.

For these reasons, I gladly lend my support to the MSU MMAST facility. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Taylor".

Ken Taylor, President  
Jackson County Board of Supervisors



# JACKSON COUNTY

Economic Development Foundation

3033 Pascagoula Street · Post Office Drawer 1558

Pascagoula, MS 39568-1558

Phone: 228-769-6263 Fax: 228-762-8431 Toll-Free: 1-800-362-0103

Web: [www.jcedf.org](http://www.jcedf.org)

March 16, 2023

Dr. Julie Jordan  
Vice President, Research & Economic Development  
Mississippi State University  
P.O. Box 6343  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dear Dr. Jordan,

The Jackson County Economic Development Foundation (JCEDF) is pleased to extend this letter of support for Mississippi State University's (MSU) Mississippi Maritime Autonomous Systems Testbed (MMAST) at the Port of Pascagoula's Singing River Island.

The State of Mississippi is a well-established leader and innovator in the field of autonomous systems technologies and their many diverse applications. JCEDF strongly supports the MMAST facility as it would further cement and advance Mississippi's long-term leadership in this area. Furthermore, as a regional economic development foundation committed to the economic success and growth of Jackson County, JCEDF also strongly believes the MMAST facility would play a tremendous, integral role in creating new economic development opportunities for Jackson County and the greater Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

At present, there are multiple government and commercial industry stakeholders located in Jackson County who would benefit greatly from the MMAST facility. Many of these stakeholders including the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Station Pascagoula, Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII), Northrup Grumman, and Raytheon Technologies all have an existing presence on Singing River Island where the MMAST facility is envisioned. Support and investment in the MMAST facility would create a powerful incentive for these existing stakeholders to expand their presence while also serving to attract and recruit new government and industry stakeholders to Singing River Island and Jackson County – which directly supports the mission and objectives of JCEDF.

For these reasons, JCEDF is again pleased to lend our support to the MSU MMAST initiative, and we look forward to a future of abundant economic opportunities the MMAST facility will help create.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Martha Henson".

Mary Martha Henson  
Deputy Director