To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, I am pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to create an age-friendly environment within Region 10 (Southwest) of the State of Georgia. We are excited to join AARP’s Age-Friendly Communities network. Southwest Georgia Regional Commission is committed to making southwest Georgia a livable region to promote health and sustainable growth and to contribute to citizens’ well-being in all stages of life.

As the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission assists the local governments in Region 10 with their comprehensive plans and implement our regional plan, we intend to promote successful aging and improve the quality of life for all residents. There is great value in utilizing the AARP’s eight domains of livability in establishing a more age friendly region: making outdoor spaces and buildings more accessible to seniors, increasing accessibility of transportation and housing, increasing access and opportunities for social participation and inclusion, access to communication and information, and supporting the ability of older individuals to age in place through community support and health services.

As a participant in the AARP Age-Friendly Community program, it is the intent of Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to:

- Pursue the active engagement of older persons in the planning process through outreach and inclusion by bringing events to places where older adults live and recreate;
- Pursue outreach through churches, civic organizations, AARP, providers of Aging services;
- Establish and implement a plan that responds to the needs identified by older persons;
- Develop a means to measure our activities, reviewing short term work programs and comprehensive plans to determine that regional age-friendly goals are being met;
- Keep the public, especially our older citizens, informed throughout the process.

We look forward to working with AARP and our member governments in making southwest Georgia an age-friendly and livable region.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Benjamin Hayward,
Southwest Georgia Regional Council Member
County Commission Chair, Mitchell County