



*Lonnie Ray Lewis, Inc.*

dba/ Cave In Rock Ferry ~ P.O. Box 222 ~ Cave In Rock, IL 62919  
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**FOR RELEASE**

June 29, 2026

*Via E-Mail Only* ([perry.newcom@crittendencountyky.org](mailto:perry.newcom@crittendencountyky.org))

Ohio River Ferry Authority, Inc.  
c/o Hon. Perry Newcom  
200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A  
Marion, KY 42064

Hon. Judge Newcom and Members of the Ohio River Ferry Authority, Inc.:

On behalf of Lonnie Ray Lewis, Inc. as owner and operator of the Cave in Rock Ferry, I received your e-mail of Friday, June 26, 2026 concerning the status of funding from the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Illinois. First, I confirm that Lonnie Ray Lewis, Inc. rejected KYTC's initial offer weeks ago. Second, we also received KYTC's first draft of a contract on Friday, June 26. After review, that proposed contract is likewise rejected. Neither KYTC's offer nor its proposed contract has any increase in funding from the allocation of two years ago. Across the board, costs have skyrocketed since then and KYTC's offer ignores that fact.

Accordingly, because the current contract expires tomorrow, Tuesday, June 30, 2026, please be advised that if a contract is not signed prior to then, the Cave in Rock Ferry's last trip will depart the Kentucky bank at approximately 9:50 p.m. The Ferry will dock on the Illinois side at approximately 10:00 p.m. Ferry service will restart once an agreement is reached and a contract is fully executed.

Respectfully,

*Lonnie Ray Lewis*  
Lonnie Ray Lewis

cc: Mr. Chad Thomas (via e-mail)  
Mr. Brian Joyner (via e-mail)  
Mr. Billy Fox (via e-mail)

### ***About the Cave In Rock Ferry***

Lonnie Ray Lewis, Inc. purchased the Cave in Rock Ferry in September 1994. The Ferry has remained privately owned and continuously operated since then by long-time Hardin County, Illinois resident, Mr. Lonnie Ray Lewis. Scheduled for operation 16 hours per day, 365 days per year, more than two hundred thousand passenger vehicles, commercial trucks and 18-wheelers use the Ferry to cross the Ohio River annually between Hardin County, Illinois and Crittenden County, Kentucky at no charge. The Ferry is a safe, dependable and vital transportation link for local residents, workers from Kentucky and Illinois, and travelers headed to the Midwest and beyond. The Ferry contributes to tens of millions of dollars of local and State revenue each year.