



May 11, 2017

The Honorable Eric Greitens, Governor
PO Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ms. Carol Comer, Director
MO Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 176
1101 Riverside Dr.
Jefferson City, MO 65102



Dear Governor Greitens and Director Comer:

On behalf of the City Council and Citizens of Rolla Community we want to express our ongoing interest and support of the Rock Island Trail across mid-Missouri. We were encouraged to hear of the acceptance by and construction of the first 47 miles of the Trail by the Department of Natural Resources. The Katy Trail has proven to be a tremendously successful and popular tourist and fitness attraction across MO . . . we see the same potential for the Rock Island Trail.

Like the Katy Trail the Rock Island Trail stands to offer all Missourians (and out-of-state tourists) a tremendous opportunity to enjoy the beautiful outdoor recreational amenities we have in MO. In addition there are a number of small communities along the proposed Trail that stand to benefit from the economic development opportunities of such an asset.

While Rolla lies some 25 – 30 miles south of the old (Ameren) rail line it actually runs just north of Rolla National Airport located at Hwy 63 and Hwy 28. While we have no active plans we have discussed a trail partnership with the City of St. James, and an opportunity to connect same to the Airport and on to a 190 mile Trail brings real enthusiasm. Walking and biking is becoming a very popular activity in the Rolla Community. Expanding that option for both recreational and transportation purposes is desirable for all ages but in particular it has a real attraction for the younger adult population.

Continued success in all of your endeavors . . . especially those that create economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life of Missourians!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Magdits, IV".

Louis J. Magdits, IV
Mayor
Rolla, Missouri

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John D. Butz".

John D. Butz
City Administrator

Cc: Senator Dan W. Brown
Representative Keith Frederick
Greg Harris, Executive Director, Missouri Rock Island Trail