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August 29, 2017

Mr. Ben Ellis, Director
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ms. Carol Comer, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

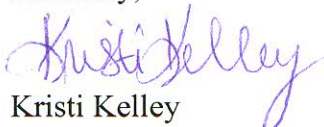
Dear Directors Ellis and Comer:

On behalf of Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission (KBRPC), we would like to express our ongoing support and interest in the Rock Island Trail across mid-Missouri. Congratulations on the completion of the first 47 miles! The tremendous success of the Katy Trail, combined with the recent completion of the first portion of the Rock Island Trail, has already encouraged economic development through KBRPC's seven-county region.

Several of the communities we serve are actively developing local trail systems and/or encouraging job creation, upon the completion of the Rock Island Trail. Recently, KBRPC has partnered with local governments throughout its region to develop a project that will connect existing local trails to those of the Katy, Rock Island, and Frisco. Another objective of this project is to create a Tourism Board, responsible for promoting area lakes, trails and agri-tourism. Therefore, the completion of the remaining 144 miles of the Rock Island Trail, in conjunction with our efforts and those of our communities, will enhance Missouri's overall tourism experience, as well as the quality of living for our residents.

Not only will the completion of the Rock Island Trail enhance tourism and quality of life, but this endeavor will create revenues for communities, especially rural communities, for needed improvements. KBRPC strongly encourages this investment, which stands to yield an exponential return. Thank you for this opportunity to express our great support for this program.

Sincerely,


Kristi Kelley
Assistant Director