

The Honorable Governor Mike Parson  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102



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

November 5, 2018

Dear Governor Parson and Director Ellis,

I am writing in support of the continued development of the Rock Island Trail on behalf of Missourians for Responsible Transportation, led by Trailnet of St. Louis, Ozark Greenways of Springfield, PedNet Coalition of Columbia, and BikeWalkKC of Kansas City, as well as our over 10,000 combined members.

The mission of Missourians for Responsible Transportation is to help develop strong communities by aligning local and regional advocacy efforts for streets, roads, and trails that work for all Missourians. We believe a strong Missouri is the result of strong communities throughout the state. The Rock Island Trail will benefit the communities along the corridor and provide a connected trail system that will enhance the health and welfare of our citizens, anchor economic growth in our rural communities, and strengthen industry through attracting and retaining a younger workforce.

We believe Missouri can have a world class trail system that will serve as a destination for biking and hiking enthusiasts from around the world, bringing added exposure and tourist dollars to our state. The Katy Trail proves this, and the enormous opportunity to secure the Rock Island Trail as an invaluable state asset is worth our combined efforts, including public and private funding. We are eager to partner with you to find solutions that will allow the Rock Island Trail to be completed for the benefit of all Missouri.

Thank you for allowing us to express our support of the continued development of the Rock Island Trail.

Best Regards,

Ron Bentsch  
Project Coordinator  
Missourians for Responsible Transportation

