

COLE CAMP TRAILS COMMITTEE
P. O. BOX 204
COLE CAMP, MO 65325

November 27, 2018

Mr. Mike Sutherland, Deputy Director
Missouri State Parks
P O Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Sutherland:

The Cole Camp Trails committee has been meeting for several years in pursuit of walking, hiking and biking trails in our area. We would like to express our support of Missouri State Parks accepting the 144 miles of Rock Island Railway gift from Ameren. Missouri State Parks is the best organization to accept and manage the corridor. Missouri's tourism and economy depend in part on the conservation of the trail systems.

The financial investment involved with the maintenance of the trail is considerable. We understand that the State Park's budget is barely adequate for current expenses, however we believe there are possibilities for outside funding and resources for its development. If the State of Missouri were to make a minimum investment now the corridor could be secured and future opportunities would not be lost. There are many details to be considered in a trail expansion—development and funding is certainly a major part. Hopefully funding could be accomplished by a combination of local and private contributions as well as grant funds.

Cole Camp Trails is in the process of connecting routes and trails throughout Benton County. We would like to see the Rock Island corridor become a reality so that we can connect the current trails we have identified at Cole Camp and throughout Benton County. Our vision is to eventually connect the Rock Island and Katy Trails which would allow us to offer recreational trails to bikers around the world.

We are very proud of our Cole Camp community. And we look forward to the continued growth of our city as we connect with those who travel the Rock Island Trail. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sandy Schlesselman, Chair