

Dear Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation,

As a resident of Lexington Kentucky, I am writing to express my strong support for the Dawkins Line Rail Trail project that is currently underway in nearby Johnson, Magoffin, and Breathitt counties. I have enjoyed these rail trails in other states but Kentucky does not have these forms of alternative transportation. They provide safe and healthy transportation for families and I encourage you to support this project.

The Dawkins Line Rail Trail will provide a safe destination for bicycle riders of every age, giving entire families a way to enjoy cycling for exercise, commuting, and recreation.

In addition, I expect this trail will bring a steady flow of cyclists from other counties and states to explore and appreciate the beauty of this area of Appalachia, creating another, much needed, inflow of revenue to a post coal mining region, through tourism and the business opportunities that will arise from this project.

As a cyclist, I have traveled to many other Kentucky counties as well as other states, to ride, run, or paddle for recreation, and I see the economic impact these outdoor adventure destinations have on other communities. To have such an opportunity in our own backyard is exciting and so much appreciated by me and many others that live in this area.

Rail trails are one of the best ways to provide a positive economic resource to any community and I hope there will be more projects in this region in the future, as the decline of coal mining and the subsequent abandonment of railroad lines and spurs are eminent.

Thank You for your support and funding of the Dawkins Rail Trail and all other related projects in our great state of Kentucky and these United States of America!

Dave Cooper / Director of the Whippoorwill Festival in nearby Berea, KY  
608 Allen Ct  
Lexington KY 40505

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