



Office of the
Magoffin County Judge Executive

PO Box 430 • 201 East Maple Street
Salyersville, Kentucky 41465
Phone 606-349-2313 • Fax 606-349-2109
E-mail judgehardin@foothills.net

May 22, 2013

Secretary Ray LaHood
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Commonwealth of Kentucky is applying through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recover ("TIGER") grant program to receive funds to complete the Dawkins Line Rails to Trails Project. Both Governor Brashear and I have made this project a priority due to the positive economic impact it will provide to our state, especially Eastern Kentucky. To date, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has spent \$2.5 million in state funds to complete Phase I of the project. I respectfully ask you to assist us in completing this project by considering our TIGER grant application to fund Phase II.

The Dawkins Line Trail is a 36 mile multi-use trail that winds through some of the most beautiful areas of Kentucky's Appalachian Region. The trail will accommodate hikers, horseback riders, and cyclists as they navigate the historic railway that transported Kentucky coal and timber all over the United States. Those who enjoy the trail will get a chance to explore the history of Eastern Kentucky as they go through two mountain tunnels and cross many bridges and trestles, getting a firsthand view of historic coal mining structures or perhaps catching a glimpse of the largest elk herd east of the Rocky Mountains.

The Dawkins Line Trail will have a tremendous tourism impact on Magoffin County. It will provide opportunities for our small businesses to offer food, lodging, and outfitting services to those who utilize the trail. Other states have successfully converted abandoned railways and are enjoying positive economic impacts; we hope to achieve those same results for our citizens.

In addition to economic impact the Dawkins Line Trail will also provide the citizens of Magoffin County with a means to exercise and improve their overall physical fitness. The rough terrain in Magoffin County and all of Eastern Kentucky makes it difficult for those in rural areas to do aerobic exercise such as walking, jogging, and cycling. As a practicing physician I can personally attest to the benefits of such exercise and I truly believe this line will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of our citizens.

As Phase I is all but complete we are ready to break ground on Phase II. We hope you can assist us with the next segment of our project as we are eager to see the Dawkins Line Trial completed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Hardin Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles E. Hardin Jr., M.D.
Magoffin County Judge Executive