



The unified voice for active living, promoting a healthy, safe and accessible outdoor experience for all in a vibrant, engaged community.

March 2nd, 2012

The Honorable Gary Hayzlett
Chair, Kansas House Transportation Committee

RE: House Bill 2735

Chairman Hayzlett and members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of BikeWalkKC and all bicyclists and pedestrians in Greater Kansas City to express our concern with provisions in House Bill 2735 that could impose a tax burden on non-profit organizations, or otherwise discourage the develop of trails in Kansas.

Kansas has an extensive and growing trails system that provides residents with outdoor recreation opportunities and generates economic activity for local communities. This is an asset to the state that can and should be supported.

BikeWalkKC's ten year vision includes linking the Kansas trail system to the heart of the Kansas City region and Missouri's world-famous Katy Trail State Park. The Katy Trail has a proven track record of generating tourism dollars and spurring reinvestment in small towns along old rail lines. Towns that were once dying are now thriving and growing, thanks to the private sector returns generated by very modest charitable and public investment in the trail.

The tax burden proposed in HB 2735 would discourage development of this connection and Kansas towns would lose the opportunity for new tourism and economic development. Forgoing a small amount of tax revenue would stimulate the economy and lead to a resurgence of many struggling Kansas communities. I urge you and the committee to rethink HB 2735 and find ways to support rather than discourage trail development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric D. Rogers".

Eric Rogers
Executive Director
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