



COUNCIL GROVE/MORRIS COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

207 West Main Street – Council Grove, KS 66846

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Testimony in Support of SB 331

Dear Committee Members,

The Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism is in full support for adding the Flint Hills trail to the State Park system.

The Flint Hills Trail is the main artery of a 200-mile, interconnected network of trails throughout Eastern Kansas. This network connects communities from Topeka to Osawatomie and Iola to Herington. They provide an opportunity for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians to enjoy the beautiful scenery and communities that Kansas has to offer.

The section of the Flint Hills Trail from Council Grove to Admire provides some of the best views of the Flint Hills available to the general public and an experience not available anywhere else in the country.

Nationwide, cycling is the fastest growing recreational activity and people are constantly looking for new cycling opportunities. Last October, the Kanza Rail Trails Conservancy along with DK Promotions, promoters of the Dirty Kanza 200 bicycle race, and the KDWPT hosted Rush the Rails, a 96 mile event, on the Flint Hills Trail, drawing almost 300 participants from throughout Kansas and as far away as Florida.

The Flint Hills trail is a national treasure that deserves the status of a state park. We ask that you support this bill making the Flint Hills Trail a state park.

Sincerely,

Monica Simecka Diane Wolfe

Monica Simecka, President

Diane Wolfe, Executive Director