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March 17, 2023
Sen. Renee Erickson, Chairwoman
Senate Commerce Committee
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairwoman Erickson and Members of the Kansas Senate Commerce Committee,

My name is Darrell Pulliam, and I am employed by Pittsburg State University, a founding member of the Prairie Pathways multi-county bike route, local business owner, previous professional BMX cyclist, and lifelong cycling advocate. I am writing to express my support for HB2331, creating Lehigh Portland State Park.

Throughout my life I have had the opportunity to ride trails, roads, and single-track trails in over 40 states. I have found the trail systems in Iowa, specifically the Lehigh Portland Trails, are comparable to some of the best trail systems in the country. I visit often, and each time I visit, I see cyclists from outside the region and state. This place has organically become a tourist destination.

Studies show that individuals will ride their bikes to places they consider a destination. This is true in my case, as I have occasionally ridden from Pittsburg Kansas to Iowa and spent the night enjoying outdoor recreation. The scenery and backdrop of the trail is remarkable and absolutely an asset to capitalize on.

In addition to tourism potential, trails are an amenity that enhance quality of life and encourage economic growth by building business friendly environments. Much of the workforce we are targeting to recruit, or to stay, require such readily available access to outdoor recreation activities.

A healthy community is the foundation to a thriving economy. The Prairie Pathways Bike Route connects three counties in Southeast Kansas: Allen, Bourbon, and Crawford. We are actively working and collaborating as a region to address disparities, health inequities, and the social determinants of health so we can all benefit from a rise in population, property valuations, health outcomes, and more.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to the future Lehigh Portland State Park and all the opportunities it provides for those regardless of socio-economic status, background, or ability.

Sincerely,
Darrell Pulliam
Resident of Crawford County