

Testimony in Opposition to HB2735

House Transportation Committee March 5, 2012

Representing The Kanza Rail-Trail Conservancy

I am Frank Meyer KRTC Board member –Volunteer — Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commissioner.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and member of the Transportation Committee for allowing me time to visit with you about rail trails and their importance to tourism in Kansas, But first a little history. The two trails we, the Kanza Rail-trail Conservancy, are developing total one hundred and fifty miles. Almost all labor is volunteer, equipment and material used for trail development is given at little or at cost. We are proceeding at a steady pace and almost half of our trail is open to the public at no charge. We are in compliance with state law and when someone asks “what can I do to Help” we say BUILD TRAIL that is the only reason we are here.

Now as a KDWP&T Commissioner I want to impress on you how important Rail-Trails are to tourism and industrial development. Last fall our daughter, son in-law and grand daughter from Co and Shirley and I biked the Katy trail (I drove the “SAG” wagon) from Clinton to St Louis Mo, very enjoyable week. We spent about \$1,500 along the way and saw and visited with a surprising number of people from several states including Kansas all spending money and have a great time. We have used trails in many of the 50 states we have visited and the comments are always the same “wow this is fun” (and they all spend money).

As a KDWP&T Commissioner I ask you why would you pass a law which would discourage or Kill something that we feel is vital to our mission of promotion tourism and industrial development in Kansas and you are getting it for free?

Any questions

Thank you all you do for Kansas