

CITY OF OSAWATOMIE



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L. Mark Govea, Mayor

January 29, 2018

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
c/o Senator Dan Kerschen, Chairman
Kansas Statehouse, Room 159-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senate Agricultural Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Osawatome, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 331, which would make the Flint Hills Trail part of the Kansas State Park system. The City of Osawatome has been very supportive of the development and growth of the Flint Hills Trail and we believe the economic growth, tourism events, and local recreational amenities that the trail provides will only be enhanced by inclusion in the state park system.

As a state park, the Flint Hills Trail will have increased visibility and promotion which we will help it rise to the recognition level of the Prairie Spirit Trail and the Katy Trail in Missouri. We have begun to experience the benefits of the trail through the Rush the Rails event, which drew over a hundred participants to our portion of the trail last year. As a state park, we would expect the trail to see even a larger increase in visitors from other counties and states visiting our community.

The Committee should be aware that we are in the planning and land purchase stages of providing a connecting intra-City trail that will connect to the Flint Hills Trail, providing the opportunity for an in-town trailhead. We expect that it will not only be the starting point for the Flint Hills Trail in the short run, but hopefully a major way-station in the future to other trails that we eventually connect to the KC metro area and beyond.

We would appreciate your thoughtful consideration and support of Senate Bill 331, or any other measure, that would include the Flint Hills Trail as part of the State of Kansas Parks system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Mark Govea".

L. Mark Govea
Mayor