



STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

Robert Hoffman
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COMMITTEES:
Statutory Ethics Committee, RMM
Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development
Education
Financial Institutions

December 10, 2003

Michael Wilz
Whitewater Canal Trail
PO Box 126
Brookville, IN 47012

RE: Whitewater Canal Trail in Franklin County

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you, in advance, for considering the proposal before you. I am writing to support the establishment of a rail-trail, the Whitewater Canal Trail, in Franklin County, Indiana. The 8-mile stretch of land on which the trail hopes to be established runs along the historic Whitewater Canal from Brookville to Metamora. I support the development of this land into an educational and recreational project.

Rail-trails are being developed all over the country and in Indiana to preserve the historic and scenic properties of rail beds. Rail-trails are the way to enjoy miles of peaceful, tree-lined, automobile-free pathways between towns. The people who choose to make use of these paths can hike and bike, while partaking in safe exercise, observing wildlife habitats, and seeing history intact.

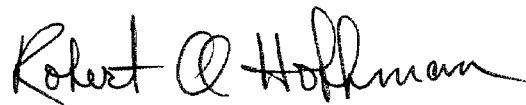
It is important to preserve this particular greenway because it tells the story of Franklin County's canal and trail history. This trail showcases the beauty of this county's hills and river, and has the potential of being one of the most scenic paths in the state. In addition, most of the land on the proposed site is already owned by the state; there will be little to no problems with land acquisition.

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As an elected official who represents part of Franklin County, I support the effects the addition of this public recreational trail would have on our community. It is essential that the history of this corridor be maintained. I believe the rail-trail concept is the best way to preserve the Whitewater corridor.

Again, thank you for considering the proposal before you. I hope you will carefully and favorably consider my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R".

Robert A. Hoffman
State Representative

RAH:BB