

Testimony on SB 331 on designating Flint Hills Nature trail state park  
and Little Jerusalem Badlands state park

To

The Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

By:

Andy Fry

President of Board of Directors  
Topeka Community Cycle Project  
801 NE Poplar St  
(785) 608-1947  
andy@cycleproject.org

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Dear Chair and members of the committee,

I support Senate Bill 331 that seeks to amend K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 32-837.

Kansas has many natural wonders that offer not only opportunities for income through tourism and travelers, but also a chance for the local population of Kansans to stay active, health and enjoy the outdoors with their family. As a newer father, I enjoy taking my 16 month old Ava on bike rides as well as hikes at home as well as on vacations in Colorado and elsewhere. Preserving such a great collaboration of resources like the Flint Hills Nature Trails is potential boon for all aspects of the state.

As a person who rides bikes, enjoys hiking and like to spend time with family and friends doing so, the Flint Hills Nature Trail is the sort of place that young professionals like myself seek out for free time and recreation. Having something like the Flint Hills Nature Trail within an hour by car and several hours by bike has opened up various adventure experiences over the last several years. I've gone on a multi-day bike camping adventure where we were able to stay at the Lyons County State Fishing Lake and enjoy other existing elements of the State system. Any of these adventures always include taking in whatever restaurants with the local restaurants and eateries along the way.

As a representative of the Topeka Community Cycle Project, longer rides and regional adventures along the KATY trail in Missouri, the Cowboy Trail in Nebraska or the Maah-daah-hey trail in North Dakota are all focuses of discussion. With the recent development by both the Kanza Rail Trail Conservancy and now with the grants from the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Flint Hills Nature Trail has quickly edged to the top of discussion with its scenic vistas and accessibility by communities across the state. Being able to experience the Flint Hills outside of a car in an extended way is a high point when sharing with other interested riders where to explore, whether they are a novice rider or a seasoned gravel rider or competitor.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my support of making the Flint Hills Nature Trail a Kansas State Park today!

Andy Fry

Jan. 30, 2018