

# RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

## A Resolution to Accept the Ameren Donation Of the 144-mile Stretch of the Rock Island Rail Line Extending the Rock Island Trail Cross-State

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**WHEREAS**, the Ameren Company remains committed to donate a 144-mile stretch of the long-unused Rock Island Rail Line, from Beaufort to Windsor, for transfer to the State of Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, said extension would add to the existing Rock Island Trail Spur to provide a cross-state trail experience for bicyclists, hikers and equestrian users to enjoy nature, explore a part of rural Missouri history, and have a healthy and enjoyable recreational experience; and

**WHEREAS**, communities, companies and individuals want to partner with Missouri State Parks to develop the Rock Island Trail and make it safe and operational; and

**WHEREAS**, public officials including mayors from Stover, Versailles, Owensville, and Gerald as well as administrators and aldermen from Windsor, Pleasant Hill, Belle and Union have urged support for the trail that would bring value to their towns in terms of tourism and revenue much like the benefits brought by the Katy Trail; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for the development of the trail over the short and long term would be in the province, scope and exigency of public/private partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is considering whether to accept Ameren's donation of the 144-mile stretch of the former Rock Island Rail Line.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

The Missouri Parks Association is in full support of the acceptance of the Ameren donation enabling Missouri State Parks to enjoy this once-in-history chance to support development of this cross-state trail asset and experience; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Missouri Parks Association urges Missouri decision makers to accept the Ameren rail line donation knowing the power of rails-to-trails in Missouri as exemplified by the long-term development of the Katy Trail, generating millions of dollars in annual revenue for the state. The Rock Island Trail has the potential to expand these benefits to the Missouri public by creating new tourism and economic development opportunities.

**PASSED BY THE MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2017.**

**REAFFIRMED BY THE MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION THIS 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018**



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**Deborah Schnack, President  
Missouri Parks Association**