



Congressman Greg Pence
529 Washington Street
Columbus, IN 47201

Dear Congressman Pence,

The Ripley County Tourism Bureau is in support of H. R. #4878 to give greater national recognition to the American Discovery Trail (ADT) which stretches from Delaware to California. The trail uses existing public lands, depends on volunteers, and incorporates trails designed for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. The southern part of the trail in Indiana crosses near Ripley County and we feel it would have a positive impact on tourism in the whole region, including Ripley County.

Because it connects 5 National Scenic, 12 National Historic, and 35 National Recreational trails, the ADT is the backbone of a national trails system and a major spoke in a statewide trails network that will connect many trails in our region.

The expansion and connection of trails has the potential for economic opportunities in the form of increased tourism and business opportunities for those catering to the outdoor enthusiast, as well as those providing food, gas, and overnight stays. Trails can also improve the quality of place for residents by promoting walking, hiking, bicycling, and outdoor exercise.

H.R. #4878 will give the trail greater national recognition by elevating American Discovery Trail into a federally recognized category of "Discovery Trail", within the National Trails System.

Sincerely,

Terri Trowbridge

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