

Kroll, Kari

From: Taffy Howard <Taffy.Howard@sdlegislature.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 5:52 PM
To: Kroll, Kari
Subject: [EXT] Attn: Railroad Board

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing because it has recently come to my attention that there is a banked railroad bed that is one of the four the state is trying to sell that has the potential to become another rails-to-trails hiking/biking trail. I'm not sure of the name of it, but it's the one that you had, I believe, two proposals for, from Rapid City as well as "Rancher's Railway." I am simply writing to express my support for this being converted to another hiking/biking trail such as the Mickelson. Every time I ride the Mickelson (and I am on it quite often in the months when there isn't snow on it...and sometime when there is snow on it as well:-), I am still in awe that folks had the foresight to see what a tremendous benefit the trail would have to our Black Hills area and our state overall. I am always running into riders from all over the United States...and they come here to South Dakota to ride what is one of the top ten rails-to-trails routes in the country. I realize how blessed I am every time I ride it! To have the opportunity to have another trail that would encompass a different aspect of the beauty that is ours here in South Dakota is incredible and I am asking that you do not allow this opportunity to be lost. The health benefits alone (not just physical, but mental as well) are worth it, but then add in the economic benefit and there is simply no way to lose on the conversion to a hiking/biking trail. I would be more than willing to help in any way I can to make this vision a reality, just let me know what I can do. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 605-381-0593.

Thanks so much,
Taffy

Taffy Howard
South Dakota State Representative, District 33
Joint Committee on Appropriations

"Fiscal conservatism is just an easy way to express something that is a bit more difficult, which is that the size and scope of government, and really the size and scope of politics in our lives, has grown uncomfortable, unwieldy, intrusive and inefficient."

P. J. O'Rourke
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