

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**

SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS

GOVERNOR

July 29, 2024

Secretary Tom Vilsack

U. S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Arkansas is a world-class outdoor recreation destination, and our trail systems are key to that status. The Trails at Mena project offers an opportunity to expand the trail system in and around the City of Mena to create a crossroads of outdoor recreation near the Ouachita National Forest and Queen Wilhelmina State Park. I am writing in support of this project’s request for a Special Use Permit to build out trail infrastructure.

As Governor, I like to call myself Arkansas’ chief salesperson. Our state’s natural beauty and robust outdoor offerings make that job easy, but I know we can do even better and establish Arkansas as a year-round outdoor recreation destination. Investments like the Trails at Mena project will help make that happen.

Once implemented, Trails at Mena will grow Mena’s economy, improve well-being in the community and surrounding region, and spur greater investment, employment, and tourism. This specific project is focused on a rural area of our state that would benefit greatly from these added amenities.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I know that all of us can work together to make Arkansas the best state in America to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Governor of Arkansas