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Mark Twain National Forest Supervisor's Office

401 Fairgrounds Road

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To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Missourians for Responsible Transportation, I've written the following letter to express our support for the proposed amendment of the Mark Twain National Forest's 2005 Forest Plan, which will provide formal corridor protections for the Ozark Trail.

Missourians for Responsible Transportation [MRT] is a statewide partnership led by four transportation advocacy organizations (BikeWalkKC in Kansas City, Local Motion in Columbia, Ozark Greenways in Springfield, and Trailnet in St. Louis) that is raising the voices of Missourians to state legislators and policymakers. Founded in 2018, MRT serves as an umbrella partnership that brings together communities and grassroots organizations from urban and rural areas to advocate with one voice at the state level for a fiscally responsible, safe, and equitable transportation system. MRT represents 35,000 members across Missouri.

We believe that a protected trail corridor is an important step for Missourians across the state to be connected through a long-distance trail network, and we support the proposed amendments to the 2005 Forest Plan. A protected Ozark Trail Corridor will allow for outdoor recreation for generations to come. It also ensures that progress can continue to connect to the St. Louis' Great Rivers Greenway trail network, as well as the MO State Parks' Katy and Rock Island Trails. This corridor connection has the potential to benefit Missourians even beyond the bounds of the Ozark Trail.

Thank you for consideration of this important plan update.

Jackson Hotaling,

Director of Policy & Programs,

Missourians for Responsible Transportation