



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

April 21, 2017

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Mac Warner
Secretary of State
Building 1, Suite 157-K
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

RE: Enrolled Senate Bill 28

Dear Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section Fourteen, Article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Senate Bill No. 28.

Enrolled Senate Bill No. 28 permits unrestricted recreational trail development anywhere in West Virginia where two or more contiguous counties show an interest in establishing a new recreational trail system. The stated legislative purpose of Enrolled Senate Bill No. 28 is to promote economic development through recreational trail development. However, I have concerns that this bill will not achieve the desired outcome and may actually work against its stated purpose.

We have already learned from the skiing and whitewater rafting industries that there is not an unlimited demand for recreational activities. Unlimited and unrestricted State sponsored recreational trail development would create an environment where you might increase total ridership, but actually decrease economic development by spreading those riders and visitors over a much broader geographic area. Before private capital will be brought to the marketplace in support of a recreational trail system, a density of trail ridership must be demonstrated and sustained over a period of years to warrant the investment.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Secretary Warner

April 21, 2017

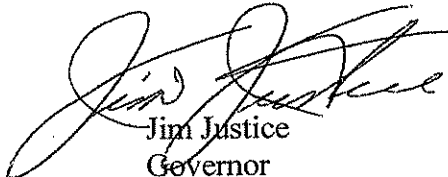
Page 2

The State and private sector have already invested millions of dollars in existing recreational trail systems and those public and private dollars would be put at risk by unrestricted and unregulated expansion. The State of West Virginia already competes with the Spearhead Trail System established by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Commonwealth of Kentucky just recently authorized the establishment of a new trail system in eastern Kentucky, all competing for the same visitors.

Any expansion of the State's recreational trail systems must be strategic and require a showing that the new trail system would not only expand visitation, but would not materially detract from the visitation and ridership on existing trail systems where numerous private and public investments have already been made.

For these reasons, I must veto Enrolled Senate Bill No. 28.

Sincerely,



Jim Justice
Governor

cc: The Honorable Mitch Carmichael
President of the Senate

The Honorable Tim Armstead
Speaker of the House of Delegates