



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

Dear Secretary Cole,

We are writing in regard to our State's robust trail system. As you know, the Wisconsin trail networks support hiking, biking, snowmobiling, ATVs, and other transportation and recreational uses. These trails not only represent a better quality of life for Wisconsinites, but also a large economic benefit to the Badger State in sectors such as tourism and local business. There is much to do in support of Wisconsin's trail networks, and we write to request that you consider updating the [2003 Wisconsin Trails Network Plan](#). As you are aware, this trails network plan is a useful tool in tracking, managing, and planning for the successful preservation and expansion of Wisconsin's outdoor trail systems.

Two years ago, we founded the Legislative Trails Caucus to collaborate with lawmakers, trail partners, and constituents to support and strengthen Wisconsin's already strong trail and outdoor recreation opportunities. One of the goals of the Trails Caucus is to increase access to trails throughout the state and to bring opportunities for economic development, transportation, and improved public health and safety to our communities.

As noted in the 2003 publication, the plan recognizes the importance of compiling and implementing the strategies and recommendations for a network of state-owned or state-designated recreational trails. This led to the *Wisconsin Trails Network Plan* identifying a series of potential trail corridors across Wisconsin.

Now, almost 20 years later, we believe it is the perfect time for the Department of Natural Resources to update the trails plan to identify what has been accomplished as well as potential enhancements and connections to our existing trails, public lands, and communities.

Planning for a statewide network of trails allows Wisconsin to better preserve and expand existing trails, build meaningful partnerships with local governments and others, benefit public health, and bolster tourism by increasing access to Wisconsin's rich natural resources.

We, the undersigned Representatives and Senators, have joined the Legislative Trails Caucus and support the modernization of the *Wisconsin Trails Network Plan*.

Thank you for considering this update to the 2003 plan and we welcome the opportunity for your collaboration in helping the trail network in Wisconsin reach its fullest potential.

Sincerely,

Rep. Goyke

Rep. Kurtz

Rep. Anderson

Rep. Andraca

Rep. Billings

Rep. Conley

Rep. Considine

Rep. Dittrich

Rep. Drake

Rep. Edming

Rep. Emerson

Rep. Hebl

Rep. Hintz

Rep. Kerkman

Rep. Meyers

Rep. Milroy

Rep. Ohnstad

Rep. Sara Rodriguez

Rep. Shelton

Rep. Sinicki

Rep. Snodgrass

Rep. Snyder

Rep. Spiros

Rep. Spreitzer

Rep. Thiesfeldt

Rep. Tranel

Rep. VanderMeer

Rep. Vining

Rep. Vruwink

Sen. Agard

Sen. Ballweg

Sen. Carpenter

Sen. Larson

Sen. Roys

Sen. Taylor