



Friends of the Flint River Trail



To: Members of the Transportation Committee

1/17/12

From: Jack Minore, Steering Committee of the Friends of the Flint River Trail,
and Board Member of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance

RE: Senate Bill 555

I want to indicate my strong support for passage of the "Trails License Plate" bill. My considerable experience with trails, bicycling and trail development has led me to believe **STRONGLY** that the development of the Trails License Plate would be very popular. In addition, I believe that there is a real need for the revenue that such a plate would generate.

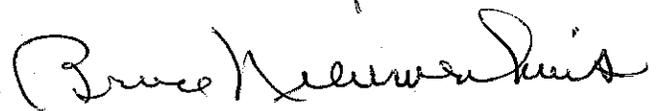
As to the popularity; we host Sunday afternoon rides on our little Flint River Trail every summer. Typically, we have about 900 riders over the course of a summer and they come (again, typically) from about 40 different zip codes. Many more serious riders have 'graduated' from our relatively short rides to much longer and more strenuous ones. Our local bike shop owner reports that he has regularly sold bicycles and riding equipment to adult customers who cite their experience with the FFRT rides as their renewed interest in bicycling.

Many studies have shown that bicycle riding has provided great benefits in recreation, transportation, improved health and – less well known – economic development. While I have emphasized my own interest in cycling; most non-motorized trails are extensively used for walking, jogging and/or running as well. Many trails are suitable for other recreational use – snowmobiling and horseback riding among them.

With the state's income revenue limited, the trails license plate bill would provide an excellent source of voluntary revenue to enhance the development and upkeep of trails. Along with many of my personal friends and cycling 'buddies', I look forward to purchasing one.



Jack Minore, FFRT Steering Committee,
MTGA Board Member
Steering Committee



Bruce Nieuwenhuis, Chair
Friends of the Flint River Trail