

To all members and supporters of the Goodsprings Historical Society:

Please take the time to read and TAKE ACTION ON the message forwarded to you with this note. As many of you know, the GHS is engaged in developing a Rails to Trails project on the roadbed of the old Yellow Pine Rail Road. This project promises to put Goodsprings on modern maps as a recreational destination with overtones of individual physical fitness, healthy outdoor recreation, and safe and careful use of our desert environment, all in the context of arousing awareness of our fragile desert open space and the historical role our town has played in southern Nevada. We are alarmed that the one program of the National Park Service that offers so much to our community is now threatened with extinction.

Please read the message and call or e mail your own senator--whatever state you live in. It will take a majority of senators to pass this bill, and every state has rails to trails projects. Our project will be the first in southern Nevada--which will put us on the map again! We are supported by the Las Vegas Field Office of the Rails-Trails Conservation Assistance program. Our project is just beginning, but we are already deeply into the planning process and in several months hope to come back to you with an award that will provide a feasibility study for the GHS-YPRR rails to trails project. That will be our map to success!

PLEASE HELP.

Liz Warren, Member
Board of Trustees
Goodsprings Historical Society

Dear Friends,

The National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program really needs your help now - please make calls to your Senators this week and urge them to sign on to the RTCA Dear Colleague letter, which may be downloaded here:

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/RTCAdearcolleagueFY07.pdf>. I know each of your States have greatly benefited from this program's work. What would we do without them? If their budget is cut \$500,000 as proposed by the Administration and the House Interior Appropriations Committee, they will have to layoff staff and likely close field offices. This could directly affect your State and your projects! Please call them and urge them to sign this letter! Be sure to download and read both letters in the "Dear Colleague" document. There are some additional good stats in the second letter.

Download and read the "Dear Colleague" document here (183k PDF file) :
<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/RTCAdearcolleagueFY07.pdf>

Download a state by state listing of Senators to contact (22k Excel file):

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/RTCAStates.xls>

Please READ BELOW to learn about action needed and for background/talking points. Thank you to American Hiking Society and the National Recreation and Park Association for preparing and overseeing this campaign.

Please help spread the word by forwarding this message through your networks. The deadline for Senators to sign on is May 24 - so please make calls tomorrow!

Thank you for your time and help in saving this critical program!

Pam

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18th National Trails Symposium, October 19-22, 2006.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED: Calls Needed to Secure Signatures on Senate RTCA Dear Colleague Letter. Deadline -- May 24, 2006

To follow-up on the last note to the Rivers & Trails Coalition from Rich Dolesh, we now have an electronic version of the Senate Dear Colleague letter authored by Senators Collins (R-ME) and Levin (D-MI). The letter is attached as a pdf file which you can email or fax to staffers, as needed.

This Senate Dear Colleague letter is crucial and represents our best hope for showing congressional support for this important program. Time is critical - we need ALL coalition members to step up and take action THIS WEEK. Specifically, we ask all coalition members to do the following:

- 1) Call your two Senators, and indicate any other offices your group can call. See the attached excel file with the list of offices - and please fill in those offices you will call. NRPA, IMBA, and AHS are sending alerts to their national networks - and thank you to ECGA for offering to help with offices along the East Coast Greenway. However, we need additional assistance from coalition members to cover more states; overlap is OK as, some Senators may be more likely to sign if they hear multiple requests from our groups as well as grassroots supporters.
- 2) Send an alert to your members, asking them to call and urge their Senators to sign the RTCA Dear Colleague.

ACTION NEEDED:

* Call your 2 Senators THIS WEEK. Use the U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121 or go to www.senate.gov for contact information. Ask for the staffer who works on public lands issues or on the Interior Appropriations Bill.

* Tell them who you are, where you're from, and if you represent an organization. Leave a message if you get voice mail.

* Thank them for their time and tell them you are calling to urge their support for the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program. If they are not familiar with RTCA, give them some brief background information (see the talking points below)

* Ask them to sign the "Dear Colleague" letter currently being circulated by Senators Collins (R-ME) and Levin (D-MI) in support of \$10.1 million for RTCA in the FY 07 Interior Appropriations bill.

* Mention specific trail projects that RTCA works on in your state. To see a list of current projects in your state, go to:

http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/whatwedo/wwd_2006_proj.pdf. Be sure to personalize your message. If you are familiar with some of the RTCA projects in your state, tell the staffer why they are important to you and your community. The RTCA home page is www.nps.gov/rtca/ for more information or to view past projects.

* Tell them this program has remained flat funded for several years, it was cut by \$200,000 last year, and another cut would put many of the projects presently underway at risk and result in diminished services, loss of staff, and likely closure of field offices.

To sign on, the staffer needs to contact David Hunter with Sen. Collins (ext. 4-3364, David_Hunter@collins.senate.gov) or Alice Yates with Senator Levin (ext. 4-2683, Alice_Yates@levin.senate.gov). The deadline is May 24, 2006.

Please let me and Rich Dolesh know if you get a positive response from the Senate offices you contact.

Background/Sample Talking points:

* RTCA is a small but extremely important and effective technical assistance program of the National Park Service that helps communities and organizations [such as mine] around the nation develop trail and greenway networks, protect rivers and wildlife habitat, preserve open space, and provide opportunities for healthy, active, close to home recreation.

* RTCA is a very popular program but unfortunately does not receive the funding it needs to adequately and better serve communities and respond to growing needs around the country.

* The Administration's budget for 2007 calls for a program cut of \$500,000,

which would reduce overall funding for the program to \$7.7 million. The House Interior Appropriations Committee also approved this level. If this funding level were to be enacted, it would be a severe cut to this valuable program.

*RTCA is not a program that should be cut by any amount, and requires a \$10.1 million appropriation to remedy the program's continued erosion, compensate for losses due to inflation, and enable the program to respond to growing needs and opportunities in communities throughout the country.

THANK YOU in advance for your efforts to help save RTCA from devastating cuts. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Rich Dolesh
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2006 5:55 PM
Subject: ACTION ALERT for RTCA: Co-signers needed for Senate Dear Colleague letter

Good news! Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) have agreed to co-sponsor a Dear Colleague letter in support of the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Your assistance is urgently needed to help gain co-signers to this letter. The letter has not yet been released, but we expect that it will be in the next day or so, and we will forward you a copy as soon as it is active.

A core group of the coalition has worked to get sponsors for the letter. Now it is up to all of us to get every Senator we can to sign on. Yesterday, the House Interior Appropriations Committee voted to approve the President's recommendation to cut the program by \$500,000, a cut, which if enacted, will lead to closure of regional offices, reduction of staff, and significant reduction of projects. Make no mistake, the RTCA program will be cut \$500,000 if we don't mount a campaign to convince the Senate that they should stand for this program.

We need you to step up and make calls to Senate offices to get as many co-signers to this letter as possible. Your help is truly needed, and

every member of the Rivers and Trails Coalition needs to make a call and help get a co-signer. If you are willing to call a specific Senate office, please let Celina know, who will direct the campaign for co-signatures. Please cc. me, Mike Phillips of NRPA and Jenn Dice of IMBA (email addresses above) with the list of who you are willing to call. Stay tuned for an alert that the letter has been released; we will send you a copy as soon as we have it in hand. Thanks for support-we really need every bit of help to save this program from devastating cuts.

Richard J. Dolesh
Chair, Rivers and Trails Conservation Coalition

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