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September 14, 2010

Dave Lange, Program Manager
National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
200 Chestnut Street, Third Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Lange:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Ohio River Trail Council (ORTC) in its grant application for a Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance grant (RCTA) through the National Park Service. Should the Ohio River Trail Council receive this grant, they would use the funds to focus on a distinct, forty-one mile portion of the trail from Coraopolis, PA to the beginning of the trail on the PA-WV-OH border.

Recently, the Ohio River passage has been recognized as a crucial region that should be revitalized. Community leaders in the areas along the Ohio River are looking for ways to redevelop after the decline of the steel and manufacturing industries in the area. The ORTC is a non-profit, volunteer-led corporation that acts as a liaison between individuals, businesses, communities and government to make this trail a reality. Funding would be used for assistance in completing two land trail feasibility studies for the Ohio River Trail's North Shore and South Shore trails. Additionally, the funding would support ORTC's aims in developing marketing, public participation and conservation strategies. This trail could improve public health, attract investment, address environmental issues, and ensure community connectivity in the form of public access.

Thank you for your attention to this proposal. I am pleased to lend Ohio River Trail Council my support, and hope the funding request for a RTCA from National Park Service will receive full consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my district director, Michelle Dorothy, at michelle.dorothy@mail.house.gov or 724-378-0928.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Altmire".

Jason Altmire
Member of Congress

JA: jcc

Cc: Vincent Troia, Ohio River Trail Council CEO