



FRIENDS OF MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

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A volunteer, non-profit, non-stock organization



Dear Committee,

We of the Friends of the Military Ridge State Trail would like to submit the following public comment on the proposed bridge project proposed by Epic over the Military Ridge State Trail, the Sugar River, and wetland in the Sugar River Valley.

We first became aware that the project had reached a stage where decisions would be made on the permitting on 4/24/24 when Nathan Lockwood of D'Onofrio Kottke and Associates emailed us the letter about the public hearing on 5/9/24. A few members attended the hearing and reported the information shared at our monthly meeting.

Overall, the group has been disappointed by the lack of clarity on the project and details on the alternatives considered. Our organization caters to over 200,000 trail users annually and is an indirect stakeholder in this project but we cannot in good conscience make a decision for or against this project since we have not been provided adequate information on it.

We would hope that the Department of Natural Resources takes this comment as a sign that there are many others in this position and that the public needs more time and information to understand why this bridge is the single best option. Epic Systems could do more to embrace a partnership with the Department and impacted stakeholders to find a solution that will benefit everyone.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Jerry Wilson
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