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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BAYFIELD COUNTY

WHEREAS trails are an important part of the economy of Wisconsin as well as to the health and well being of its citizens and visitors, and

WHEREAS trails provide commuters with alternative modes of transportation that enhance the entire transportation network, and

WHEREAS in the case of *Samuel Johnson 1988 Trust et al. v. Bayfield County*, Case No. 07-1348 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (the "Bayfield County case"), Bayfield County is trying to preserve its railroad corridor as a public highway according to the 43 U.S.C. 912-13 National Trails System Improvements Act of 1988, and

WHEREAS there is a significant number of federally-granted railroad rights of way in the State of Wisconsin which merit preservation for public highway, future rail use, recreational trail or other open space and conservation uses, and for related purposes, and

WHEREAS the results in the Bayfield County case may impact not only the ability of the County to preserve the right of way at issue in that particular proceeding but also the ability of other state and local agencies to foster preservation of federally granted rights of way elsewhere in Wisconsin,

It is therefore RESOLVED that the Governor's State Trails Council supports Bayfield County's efforts to preserve federally-granted railroad rights of way as public highways and trails.

Unanimously passed this 13th day of July 2007 by the Governor's Wisconsin State Trails Council.

