

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United State Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

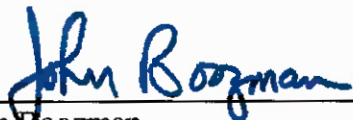
We are writing to express our support for the application submitted by the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism's (ADPHT) to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program. Funds received will be used to construct the final 13.4-mile section of the Delta Heritage Trail (DHT) in southeast Arkansas. This project will complete the entire 84.5-mile rail-to-trail project and includes significant private matching funds.

Since 1992, ADPHT has worked to complete the DHT and serve the communities of rural Southeast Arkansas. To date, 48.1 miles of trail have been completed through a combination of state and federal funding and 23 miles are currently funded for design and construction. In 2019, ADPHT commissioned an Economic Impact Assessment that showed a completed Delta Heritage Trail is expected to create \$7.7 million in economic benefits per year in the region as well as new jobs and opportunities. Furthermore, the counties in which the remaining unfunded 13.4 miles are located have been identified as Areas of Persistent Poverty according to recent census surveys.

With the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, completion of the DHT would be all but guaranteed and bring a much-needed economic boost to this rural region of Arkansas. We ask that you give this application all due consideration as it moves through the review process, and please keep us apprised of its progress.

We are grateful for the time and assistance the U.S. Department of Transportation provides to the State of Arkansas.

Sincerely,



John Boozman  
U.S. Senator



Tom Cotton  
U.S. Senator



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress