



March 11, 2009

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
2446 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin,

Thank you for your past support and championing of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Your work in Congress on behalf of the Trail shows leadership that inspires volunteers and private donors to increase their support for Wisconsin's Greatest Trail and one of only eight National Scenic Trails in the United States that have been designated by Congress.

Attached are two completed FY 2010 Appropriations Request Forms that reinforce the detailed requests I presented to Amber Shipley of your staff on February 23, 2009. Even though I know you understand the benefits of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and our requests on behalf of the Trail can stand alone, please consider the following additional explanation of why the Trail deserves continued and increased federal support.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail provides broad-based public benefits: it is a progressive conservation, recreation, education, economic, physical fitness, linear National Park. It is therefore able to touch on all four of your appropriations priorities:

- Demonstrated needs of Wisconsin communities
- Improving health care for Wisconsinites
- High-tech and "green" job creation
- Promoting Wisconsin's energy independence

By passing through 30 counties, 190 communities and 80 school districts many Wisconsin communities are having diverse needs met. Some of the needs that are being served by the Ice Age Trail include:

- In Lodi the Trail is regularly used as an outdoor classroom by school teachers in which students learn about biology, geology, physical fitness, writing and more.
- In Dane County the Trail is especially popular and the County has devoted millions of dollars of County funds to purchase land that closes gaps in the Trail.

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- Although *walking in nature* is one of the most popular forms of outdoor recreation, having quality places to walk that are free of automobile traffic are harder to come by in the Midwest than the Eastern or Western parts of the U.S. due to the lower percentage of public land in the Midwest.
- Studies show that walking is a very healthy form of physical exercise. As a society, more walking should translate to lower health care costs.
- The Trail is part of the green infrastructure of local communities, the state of Wisconsin and the United States. Jobs for those who work on the Trail and those businesses that are supported by the Trail, such as bed and breakfasts and service industries along the Trail, are green jobs.
- The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a sustainable recreation resource that has a low carbon footprint and for some communities the Trail it is even a transportation resource that residents can use to walk to some of their destinations instead of drive by car.

To many volunteers and other users of the Ice Age Trail, it is a local resource. It is a place nearby for them to enjoy and love. But management and completion of this thousand-mile-long trail is a grand partnership that includes private landowners, more than a thousand dedicated volunteers, non-profit organizations, city parks departments, county forestry departments, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service.

The amount of progress those local users of the Trail enjoy is based on the strength of this partnership and commitment of each of the partners. Please continue to make the federal commitment to the Ice Age Trail as strong as possible and I can assure that we will continue to leverage that commitment several times over.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Wollmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael G Wollmer
Executive Director