Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition

Michigan House of Representatives
Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

Testimony of David E. Lossing
Chair, Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition
Wednesday, February 14, 2018
12noon

Dear Chairwoman Hughes and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. My name is David Lossing, chair of the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition, representing eighteen member organizations of local non-profits, local units of government, and a lake association, who have come together to support the Shiawassee River as a National Water Trail. We support House Resolution 230 that has been introduced by State Representative Ben Fredericks of Owosso, MI.

Our Coalition covers four counties: Oakland, Genesee, Shiawassee and Saginaw and three area codes (248, 810, and 989). Our designation of the Shiawassee River is eighty-eight miles from the headwaters in Holly, MI all the way to Chesaning, MI. Our water trail would be the second longest National Water Trail in Michigan.

The City of Linden, MI initially applied for and received a technical assistance grant from the U.S. National Park Service to assist in developing the application. Numerous key groups were key stakeholders to make this a reality: Headwaters Trail, Inc., Keepers of the Shiawassee, Friends of the Shiawassee River and University Outreach at the University of Michigan-Flint. From late 2015 until the application was submitted in April 2017, over three hundred supporters were engaged in the planning process. For the purpose of the application, the Friends of the Shiawassee River formally submitted the application and have agreed to be the fiduciary agent for the Coalition.

We believe that support of HR 230 by the House Outdoor and Tourism Committee, and the Michigan House of Representatives, will provide the needed support to make our Shiawassee River National Water Trail a reality with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

For the committee's information, I've listed the partner organizations of our Water Trail Coalition as part of my testimony.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition Partner Organizations

Oakland County
Headwaters Trails, Inc.
North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy
Village of Holly
Holly Township

Genesee County
Keepers of the Shiawassee
Ponemah, Squaw, Tupper Lake Association
City of Fenton
City of Linden
Argentine Township
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission

Shiawassee County
Friends of the Shiawassee River
Village of Byron Downtown Development Authority
Village of Vernon
City of Corunna
City of Owosso

Saginaw County
Village of Oakley
Village of Chesaning
Chesaning Township