

RICHARD J. DURBIN
ILLINOIS

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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

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Dr. Poonam Jain
ITS Trail Committee, Inc.
916 N. Easton St.
Staunton, IL 62088

Dear Dr. Jain:

I am writing in support of the Illinois Traction System (ITS) which was founded in January 2006 to complete the link between the Benld/Gillespie Trail and the Madison County Trails and to develop a multi-purpose recreational trail from Staunton through Sawyerville to Benld for a distance of approximately 6 miles.

As the Co-Chair of the U.S. Senate Bike Caucus, I know firsthand the benefits derived from bike trails. In addition to the obvious health benefits derived from increased physical activity, there is a social and economic impact on communities with extensive bike trails. Quality of life is improved, economic development often follows, and social opportunities open up.

I understand that the ITS has a number of events planned to promote the trail, including a Trail Breaking Event on June 2nd on Historic Route 66, a Tour de Donut and Tour de Coal bike events, and various other fundraising events.

I would like to lend my enthusiastic support to the efforts of the Illinois Traction System as they go forward with the development of the Illinois Traction System Trail.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

RJD/ad