

WABASH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jeff Dawes, Cheryl Ross, Tyler Niccum

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September 15, 2025

Kevin Smith
Rustic River Outfitters
6062 W 600 S
Huntington, IN 46750

Dear Mr. Kevin Smith,

Thank you for taking the time to present your proposal regarding the conversion of the Salamonie River State Forest into a State Park, the reopening of Lost Bridge East, and the associated plans to adjust water levels. We appreciate your efforts to promote tourism and economic development in Wabash and Huntington Counties.

After careful review and consideration of your proposal, and after weighing input from various stakeholders, including representatives from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the County Commissioners have decided not to support the project at this time.

This decision was not made lightly. We recognize your dedication to enhancing our region, but based on the current information, historical context, and the complexities involved, we believe it is not in the best interest of the County to move forward with an endorsement.

We thank you again for your commitment to the community and wish you the best in your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dawes

Chairman
On behalf of the Wabash County Commissioners