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RESOLUTION 22-06

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING H.R. 4878: NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS ACT

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) promotes an effective multimodal, regional land use/transportation system that is safe, energy and fiscally efficient, maximizes regional connectivity, serves the mobility needs of all citizens, and is environmentally sensitive; and

WHEREAS, NIRPC promotes transportation improvements that encourage walking and bicycling while promoting safe operations for all users; and

WHEREAS, NIRPC has adopted the *2020 Greenways+Blueways Plan* that outlines a series of regional priority trail corridors in NW Indiana connecting to all our major population centers and points outside of our region; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 4878 (H.R. 4878) has been introduced to the 117th United States Congress as the National Discovery Trails Act, which amends the National Trails System Act to establish national discovery trails interstate in scope and that connect representative examples of America's trails and communities; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4878 would designate as a National Discovery Trail the American Discovery Trail (ADT), a 6000-mile system which extends from Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware to Point Reyes National Seashore in California, traveling northern and southern routes from Cincinnati, Ohio to Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the ADT's northern route would directly bisect the NIRPC region by traversing through Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties for approximately 46 miles on proposed off-road trails including the Veterans Memorial Trail and Pennsy Greenway, and has been deemed a "State Visionary Trail", the highest priority assigned to a planned trail corridor in NW Indiana; and

WHEREAS, NIRPC recognizes the importance of promoting the ADT as a benefit to the NW Indiana region in terms of tourism and national visibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NIRPC strongly supports the passage of H.R. 4878: National Discovery Trails Act to establish the legacy of the American Discovery Trail as our country's great connector route, and opening it up for additional assistance from the National Park Service.

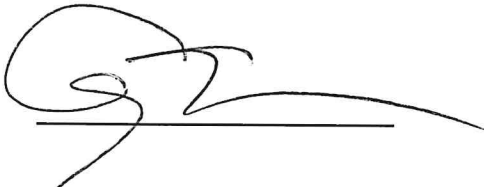
Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this 20th day of January, two thousand and twenty-two.



Chairperson

Justin Kiel

ATTEST:



Secretary

Greg Stinson