

Dear Committee Chair Anderson,

On behalf of Trailnet and our more-than-12,000 members and subscribers in the St. Louis metropolitan area, we urge you to vote NO on HB 2047 when the bill is considered by the House Conservation and Natural Resources Committee.

This bill would allow disabled individuals and anyone over 55 years of age to use golf carts and ATVs on the Katy Trail. We respectfully request that the bill not be advanced for the following reasons:

- 1) The Katy Trail was designed for non-motorized use, built with funds specifying non-motorized use, and it attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually precisely because it is restricted to non-motorized use.
- 2) Allowing motorized vehicles on the trail will jeopardize: a) the tranquil nature of the Katy Trail that attracts current non-motorized users; b) the \$18 million in annual economic benefits that accrue to trail communities from current non-motorized users; and c) the physical well-being of non-motorized users, given the speed potential and weight of these types of motorized vehicles.
- 3) For people with disabilities, the trail is already accessible. This is required by state and federal law. In addition, Missouri State Parks already offers regular tram rides on the Katy Trail for anyone who wants to experience the trail without bicycling or walking. These accommodations open up access without destroying the natural beauty of the trail.
- 4) Those who are 55 years of age or older with no disability can walk or bicycle to enjoy the trail. That age group forms a major portion of existing trail users.
- 5) ATV and golf cart traffic would undoubtedly tear up the trail and necessitate expensive maintenance and/or re-construction.

For these reasons, Trailnet joins with other bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups across the state in urging you to preserve the tranquil Katy Trail experience and vote down HB 2047 in committee.

Thank you for your consideration.