

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
Charleston, West Virginia

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February 10, 2013

The Honorable Jeffrey Kessler
President of the West Virginia Senate
The Honorable Rick Thompson
Speaker of the West Virginia House of Delegates
c/o Aaron Allred, Legislative Manager
Room 132-E, Building 1
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305

Re: HCR118 (2011)--*Multi county ATV trail system feasibility* assigned to the Joint
Commission on Economic Development

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

Along with my Senate counterpart, Mark Imbrogno, I staffed the Joint Commission on Economic Development during the most recent interim period. One of the study topics referred to the Commission was HCR 118 (2011)--*Multi county ATV trail system feasibility*. This resolution requested that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance work with the Rahall Transportation Institute toward possibly developing an ATV trail system in central West Virginia similar to the existing Hatfield and McCoy ATV trail system. In the Committee's behalf, the Commission requested of and received from the Rahall Transportation Institute a proposal for a study to determine whether a central West Virginia ATV trail system is feasible.

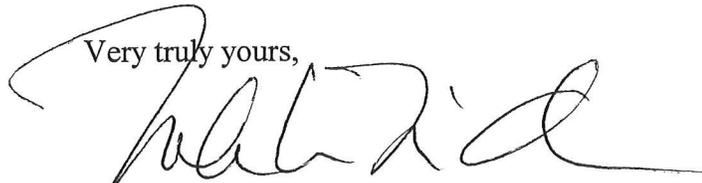
The Commission would most likely have reported the study proposal to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance this month for its consideration. The Commission did not meet this month, however. While I cannot speak for any recommendations the Commission may or may not have made, I do herewith provide you with a copy of the Rahall Transportation Institute's study proposal which it prepared on behalf of the Commission per HCR1118 (2011) so that, should you deem it appropriate, the Joint Committee on Government and Finance may consider whether to enter into

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a contract with the Rahall Transportation Institute for the study proposed, or to pursue a study of similar nature regarding the potential development of a central West Virginia ATV trail system.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McOwen", written in a cursive style.

Mark McOwen

Enclosures: (1) Feasibility Study for a Proposed Multi-County ATV Trail System in Central West Virginia - Components of a Conceptual Master Plan
(2) HCR118 (2011)

cc: Delegate Brent Boggs
Mark Imbrogno, Esquire
John Homburg, Esquire

Feasibility Study for a Proposed Multi-County ATV Trail
System in Central West Virginia – HCR118 (2011)

Components of a Conceptual Master Plan

Rahall Transportation Institute
www.njrati.org
January 7, 2013

House Concurrent Resolution
No. 118 (2011)

▪ **Background**

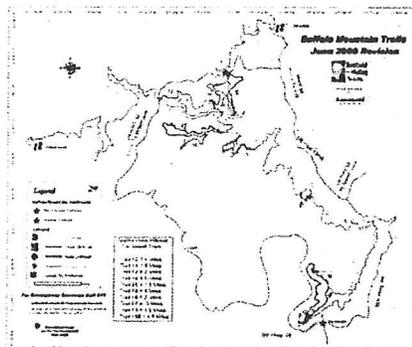
- Requests a “feasibility study for a proposed multi-county ATV trail system in Central West Virginia”
- Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, Lewis, Calhoun, Nicholas and Webster Counties
- Findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations
- Similarities to Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority and service area

Components of a Conceptual Master Plan

- Physical infrastructure inventory and assessment of the potential trails
- Trail construction, operation, maintenance, and security
- Demand/potential use of the trails
- Financial feasibility and sustainability
- Regional economic impact
- Public participation

Physical infrastructure inventory and assessment

- Initial, key component
- Documentation and description of assets and amenities
- Location analysis with strong digital mapping component



Trail construction, operation, maintenance, and security

- Development and performance component
- Implementation schedule
- Estimates of cost for various operational expenses
 - Staffing
 - Maintenance
 - Expansion
 - Marketing

Demand/potential use

- Data driven analysis
- Examining patterns of usage and visitor stays
- ATV sales and registrations
- Potential agglomeration effects

Financial feasibility and sustainability

- Evaluation of potential revenue sources
 - Yield
 - Stability
- Comparing expense estimates with anticipated revenue
- Access and limits to liability

Regional economic impact

- Beyond the direct employment and expenditures
- Indirect and induced effects in terms of:
 - Employment
 - Expenditures
 - Tax payments
- Accounting for spending leakages

Public participation

- Concurrent to other phases of planning
- Aids quality of input data
- Increases public awareness and involvement
- Balancing access and efficiency
- Methods can include steering committees, public meetings and survey methodologies

Questions?

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Rahall Transportation Institute
www.njrati.org
January 7, 2013

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 118**

2 (By Delegates Boggs, Smith, Walker, Staggers, Perry, Pino,
3 Talbott and Sigler)

4
5 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to conduct
6 a feasibility study for a proposed multi-county ATV trail
7 system in Central West Virginia.

8 WHEREAS, The study area is to include the seven central West
9 Virginia counties of Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, Lewis, Calhoun,
10 Nicholas and Webster; and

11 WHEREAS, These counties are very similar to the Hatfield-McCoy
12 region in that their economic base has dwindled substantially,
13 resulting in significant economic hardship, due to the loss of
14 natural resource-based industry. Each area can benefit greatly from
15 the successful introduction of well-managed recreational based
16 tourism. Each area has vast networks of residual trail systems from
17 natural resource extraction activities. Each region is located
18 within a day's drive of large population centers and in areas where
19 there is a relative shortage of motorized trail-related
20 opportunities; and

21 WHEREAS, This provides a great opportunity for the successful
22 development and expansion of motorized-use trails. These regions
23 also include large areas of privately-owned land where well-managed
24 trail facilities could exist without hurting the land owners
25 interests; therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
2 requested to conduct a feasibility study for a proposed multi-
3 county ATV trail system in Central West Virginia; and, be it

4 *Further Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Government and
5 Finance shall work with the Rahall Appalachian Transportation
6 Institute as they were instrumental in researching and developing
7 the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority; and, be it

8 *Further Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Government and
9 Finance report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2012, on
10 its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts
11 of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations;
12 and, be it

13 *Further Resolved*, That any costs associated with any work
14 conducted by the Rahall Appalachian Transportation Institute and
15 any other expenses necessary to conduct this study, to prepare a
16 report and to draft necessary legislation be paid from legislative
17 appropriations to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.