

**Testimony on SB 331 on designating Flint Hills Nature trail state park and Little  
Jerusalem Badlands state park**

**To**

**The Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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**SB 331 seeks to amend K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 32-837.**

**My relevance to the bill – I'm a avid cyclist with 2 young children. I will no longer ride on the streets for fear of being hit. We need more safe places to ride.**

**Personal value of the Flint Hills Nature Trails to me, is this will be a place I can ride without the fear of being ran over on our road. This will also give me more distance than what I can ride on our local paved trails.**

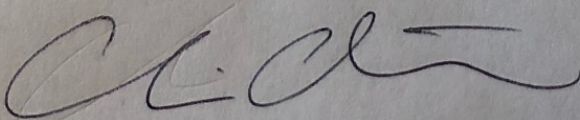
**Anticipated Economical benefit of the FHNT becoming a state park. Look at the Katy Trail in MO. This is huge for MO!**

**The Flint Hills Nature Trail is the longest rail-trail and Kansas, and seventh longest in America. The trail is open to pedestrians, horses, cyclists, and any non-motorized vehicle. From the perspective of a cyclist, the trail offers a variety of scenery, recreational areas to rest, and many entry/exit points to choose from – this appeals to all levels of cyclists.**

**State parks and open space improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our communities, and make our cities, counties, and state more attractive places to live and work. If the Flint Hills Nature Trail becomes a state park, it will undoubtedly benefit from the backing of state resources to maintain this valuable resource. There is an immense value in having the backing of the state behind a park, and KDWP will be able to provide the support, infrastructure and maintenance that the Flint Hills Nature Trail requires to maintain it's value to the cycling community.**

**Given the significance of the land/trail system to me as a avid cyclists, and value to the surrounding areas, I respectfully request that Flint Hills Nature Trail be designated as a part of the Kansas state park system.**

**I, Chris Armstrong, appreciate the opportunity to address the Committee and request favorable passage of the bill.**



**1/29/18**