



STATE OF INDIANA

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

INDIANA LEGISLATIVE TRAILS CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS

CAREY HAMILTON

DENNIS KRUSE

EDDIE MELTON

ANTHONY COOK

200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

September 20, 2021

The Honorable Diana Biddle
The Honorable Chuck Braden
The Honorable Jerry Pittman
Brown County Commissioners
201 Locust Lane, 2nd Floor
Nashville, IN 47448

Mr. Peter Ray
Vice President of Engineering
The Indiana Railroad Company
1500 South Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46225

Dear Mr. Ray and Commissioners Biddle, Braden and Pittman:

As co-chairs of the bipartisan, bicameral Indiana Legislative Trails Caucus, we are writing to urge you to reestablish a pedestrian crossing for the Tecumseh Hiking Trail across the Indiana Railroad at Indian Hill Road.

The rail crossing closure has blocked through-hiking on the Tecumseh Hiking Trail that connects with a number of other trails to form a trail system spanning over 160 miles and 8 counties. Without the pedestrian crossing, the only way to get across the railroad is to take a five to six mile walking detour. This is a significant impediment for through hikers and defeats the goal of having a continuous trail system.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) says it was not involved in the decision to close the rail crossing and suggested contacting the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to learn what restrictions, if any, would apply to re-establishing the trail crossing. After discussing the situation with the FRA, it was determined the Brown County Commissioners and the Indiana Railroad are free to agree upon whatever you feel is the best way to enable hikers to cross the railroad tracks at Indian Hill Road without any regulatory oversight.

We hope the Indiana Railroad and the County Commissioners will work to quickly re-establish the crossing for hikers. We stand ready to assist you in any way you think would be helpful.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Carey Hamilton
State Representative
House District 87

Dennis Kruse
State Senator
Senate District 14

Eddie Melton
State Senator
Senate District 3

Anthony Cook
State Representative
House District 32