



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3151/1
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2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 44

April 27, 2017 - Introduced by Senators RINGHAND, NASS, FEYEN, RISSER, VINEHOUT and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives SPREITZER, BORN, LOUDENBECK, BERCEAU, CROWLEY, HORLACHER, JAGLER, KESSLER, KOLSTE, OHNSTAD, SINICKI, SUBECK, THIESFELDT, VRUWINK, WACHS and ZAMARRIPA. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** recognizing the Rock River Trail, honoring the efforts of trail founder
2 Frank Schier, and celebrating the trail's grand opening.

3 Whereas, the Rock River Trail Initiative was established in 2010 in order to
4 create the Rock River Water Trail; and

5 Whereas, in 2013, the Rock River Water Trail became the first National Water
6 Trail to be designated in both Wisconsin and Illinois by the National Park Service of
7 the federal Department of the Interior; and

8 Whereas, the Rock River Water Trail comprises 320 miles of the river course
9 between Fond du Lac County in Wisconsin and its confluence with the Mississippi
10 River in Rock Island, Illinois; and

11 Whereas, 2013 Wisconsin Act 30 was unanimously adopted by the senate and
12 assembly and signed into law by Governor Walker in 2013 to designate and mark the
13 Rock River Trail Scenic and Historic Route; and

1 Whereas, the Rock River Trail Initiative has also worked to establish a separate
2 scenic and historic route for motorists, a hiking route, a bicycling route, a horse trail,
3 and an air route, as well as both an art route and chocolate trail; and

4 Whereas, the founder of the Rock River Trail Initiative was Frank Schier, editor
5 and publisher of the *Rock River Times*, who wanted to preserve the river corridor and
6 promote its recreational possibilities; and

7 Whereas, Schier, of Rockford, Illinois, worked to create a two-state initiative
8 with coordinator Greg Farnham of Hustisford, Wisconsin; and

9 Whereas, Schier died of cancer in January 2017, and his legacy lives on in the
10 Rock River Trail; and

11 Whereas, the Rock River Trail crosses 11 counties, including the Wisconsin
12 counties of Fond du Lac, Dodge, Jefferson, Dane, and Rock; and

13 Whereas, the Rock River Trail Initiative hopes that, by its work with the trail,
14 it can promote the revitalization of the river's 41 communities and spur their
15 economic development; and

16 Whereas, the Rock River Trail will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon
17 cutting ceremony in Beloit on June 3, 2017, as well as events throughout the week
18 in other river communities; now, therefore, be it

19 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
20 Wisconsin legislature recognize the efforts of the Rock River Trail Initiative, honor
21 its founder Frank Schier, and celebrate the grand opening of the Rock River Trail this
22 summer.

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(END)