

September 27, 2006

Brian Morgenstern, Clerk of Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources  
1328 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20512

Dear Mr. Morgenstern:

This letter is to let you know my intent to testify before the subcommittee on National Parks on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall of Clarksville, Indiana, 200 Broadway, Clarksville, Indiana, 47129.

The purpose of my testimony will be to support the extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, which is known as the Eastern Legacy.

Most respectfully,

James P. Keith  
Executive Director

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Executive Director  
Clark-Floyd Counties Convention and Tourism Bureau  
Chairman  
Indiana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission

Testimony  
Before the Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States House of Representatives

Hearing on the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the  
potential extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail  
October 4, 2006

Testimony on Lewis and Clark Trail Extension October 4, 2006  
James P. Keith (812) 282-6654

As Executive Director of the Clark-Floyd Counties Convention and Tourism Bureau; Chairman of the Indiana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission and an active participant in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial efforts in Clarksville, Indiana, I thank you for the opportunity to share Indiana's Lewis and Clark connection to the Meriwether Lewis/William Clark Expedition 1803-1806.

Through the National Bicentennial efforts an opportunity has been created for our community of Clarksville, Indiana and the Falls of the Ohio to share what previously had been an untold story of where William Clark met Meriwether Lewis coming down the Ohio River in the Fall of 1803. He met his co-captain, William Clark, at George Rogers Clark's Homesite, where they recruited the nucleus of leadership of the Expedition which is now known as the "Nine Young Men from Kentucky," enlisted them in the military and departed for St. Louis on October 26, 1803. After a very successful exploration of the Louisiana Purchase and reaching the Pacific Ocean they returned to Clarksville on November 5, 1806. From here they went their separate ways to report their findings to President Jefferson.

The Bicentennial efforts have led to an awakening in the community of the significance of our community in this expedition. Such enthusiasm is evident in the Town of Clarksville which has since built a replica of the George Rogers Clark cabin, renamed its busiest thoroughfare Lewis and Clark Parkway and has seen residential subdivisions, shopping centers, themes in retail stores and restaurants adopt the Lewis and Clark theme. There has been academic research done, booklets and pamphlets printed and curricula developed for fourth and fifth- grade students. Through the efforts of the National Park Service in its commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial we have benefited in the Lewis and Clark world by being part of the story. Before this effort it was generally thought all activities associated with Lewis and Clark began and ended in St. Louis.

The extension of the official Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from St. Louis to Monticello would permit the National Park Service to tell the whole story from the beginning to the end. Currently this designation means we are not a certified state; thus, we are left out of some of the National Parks' programs. By extending the trail the total story can continue to be told of the preparations made which were necessary for the successful adventure, particularly the story of Clarksville, Indiana and the Falls of the Ohio where the explorers met, recruited, enlisted, trained, departed for St. Louis and returned. It is our desire to be included in the full story; thus, when another commemoration is planned 100 years from now the true significance of the efforts in planning will be shared.

For additional comments Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Board Member and lead spokesperson of the Ohio Valley Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Jim Mallory, 763 Robin Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40502, is an excellent resource. He has been the spokesperson for the Eastern Legacy Trail Extension.

Thank you for the opportunity to ask that we be included in the Lewis and Clark story.

**DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT**  
**Required by House Rule XI, clause 2(g)**  
**And Rules of the Committee on Resources**

**A. This part is to be completed by all witnesses:**

1. Name:  
James P. Keith
2. Business Address:  
315 Southern Indiana Avenue, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130
3. Business Phone Number:  
(812) 282-6654
4. Organization you are representing:  
Clark-Floyd Counties Convention and Tourism Bureau and Indiana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission
5. Any training or educational certificates, diplomas or degrees or other educational experiences which add to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing:  
Not Applicable
6. Any professional licenses, certifications, or affiliations held which are relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing:  
Not applicable
7. Any employment, occupation, ownership in a firm or business, or work-related experiences which relate to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing:  
Not applicable
8. Any offices, elected positions, or representational capacity held in the organization on whose behalf you are testifying:  
Executive Director of the Clark-Floyd Counties Convention and Tourism Bureau which has been at the forefront in promoting the Lewis and Clark connection to Clarksville, Indiana during the Bicentennial '03 – '06. I was also appointed by the Indiana Governor as Chair of the Indiana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission and through that position serve on the Circle of State Advisors (COSA) to the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council.

**B. To be completed by nongovernmental witnesses only:**

1. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) from the Department of the Interior which you have received since October 1, 2000, including the source and the amount of each grant or contract:  
None
2. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) the Department of the Interior which were received since October 1, 2000 by the organization(s) which you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract:  
None
3. Any other information you wish to convey which might aid the members of the Committee to better understand the context of your testimony: