

**Testimony on Lewis and Clark Trail Extension October 4, 2006**  
**Mayor Robert L. Waiz, Jr. (812) 285-6400**

As Mayor for the City of Jeffersonville, Indiana, I thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about Indiana's Lewis and Clark connection to the Meriwether Lewis/William Clark Expedition 1803-1806.

Clark County, Indiana and the Falls of the Ohio area is very excited about the opportunity to participate in the National Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. This is where William Clark met Meriwether Lewis as they forged their historical partnership and set out on their journey west. It's where Lewis and Clark recruited the members of their expedition, which is now known as the "Nine Young Men from Kentucky."

On October 26, 1803, the group departed Clarksville, Indiana for St. Louis, Missouri. It would be nearly three years before Lewis and Clark returned to Clarksville. During that span, they explored the Louisiana Purchase and Pacific Ocean. Their efforts resulted in a report to President Thomas Jefferson, who had commissioned the expedition.

The Bicentennial celebration is an exciting event for our community. That excitement has resulted in the replica of the George Rogers Clark cabin, the naming of a major street as Lewis and Clark Parkway while local developments have adopted the Lewis and Clark theme. I have personally visited local elementary schools and read to them about the expedition and its contributions to our country.

That is why the extension of the official Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from St. Louis to Monticello is so important to our community. It would give everyone the opportunity to learn about the expedition from start to finish. Receiving the official certification would allow us to participate in the National Parks' programs that we currently do not have the opportunity to join.

The extension of the trail means the whole story of the Lewis and Clark journey can be told. People can learn about the contribution Clark County, Indiana and the Falls of the Ohio area played in this historical expedition. I encourage you to include our community in the story about Lewis and Clark when they departed Clarksville, Indiana for St. Louis, Missouri.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Again, I respectfully request that our community be included in the Lewis and Clark story.