

Dear Senator Portman,

I'm writing to ask for your support for the North Country National Scenic Trail Adjustment Act. This bill would incorporate existing scenic hiking trails in Minnesota's Boundary Waters and North Shore of Lake Superior into the national North Country Scenic Trail.

Why am I asking you for this? Because the North Country Trail and the Buckeye Trail are one and the same for major sections as it travels through our state. In short, this bill has the ability to expand access to outdoor recreation and grow tourism not just in Minnesota, but all across the Midwest.

The authorized route for the North Country Trail, established over 30 years ago, must be updated by Congress in order to respond to both the growing national desire for access to outdoor recreation and local efforts on the ground. This bill, revising the authorized route, is a simple, common sense solution to address those issues.

This legislation would increase the overall length of the trail to incorporate existing hiking trails in Minnesota's Boundary Waters and North Shore of Lake Superior into the North Country National Scenic Trail and replace the current stretch of proposed trail that would bring hikers through extensive unnavigable black spruce and tamarack wetlands. The bill would also extend the NCT at its eastern terminus near Middlebury, VT, linking it to the popular Appalachian Trail along the eastern coast of the United States. This would establish one unified national trail system which would stretch from the plains of North Dakota to the forests of Vermont, as far north as Maine and as far south as Georgia.

This bill is supported by the North Country Trail Association, the American Hiking Society and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Thank you for your time, and support for our nation's trails and outdoor heritage. I hope you will join in cosponsoring this legislation that is important to all outdoorsmen.

Sincerely,

[Constituent]