



MISSOURI RIVER BASIN
Lewis & Clark
VISITOR CENTER

100 Valmont Drive
Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410
www.MRB-LewisandClarkCenter.org

May 10, 2017

Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
c/o Nate Blum, District Representative
301 S 13th St, Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Congressman Fortenberry,

What a pleasant surprise to have you drop by our Center this morning! As a summary to our brief conversation, our board of directors request you to sponsor a new piece of legislation with statutory language authorizing the Secretary of Interior to approve two items:

1. Extend the existing authorization in Section 342 of Public Law 110-229 dated May 8, 2008. This authorization enabled our Lewis & Clark Center to receive Federal funding through the National Park Service for a period of up to ten years. This authorization needs to be extended beyond 2018 to assure that we can continue to staff, maintain and operate this portion of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail for the benefit of the public.
2. Permission to enter into a new agreement (or lease) of a portion of our 78 acre property that is currently non-developed and underutilized. The City of Nebraska City has a need for additional land for outdoor recreation including soccer fields, Frisbee golf course, equestrian trails, dog park, archery range, etc. Any agreement would require the lessee to maintain the property in a manner that is compatible with its intended use based on the deed of transfer and memorandum of understanding with the National Park Service dated June 2009. The existing nature trail around the perimeter of that remote site could be enhanced with new signage showing the natural flora and fauna that exists on that piece of property. In addition, other amenities could be added such as a native grass/wildflower demo plot. Annual income generated from the lease would help offset our operating costs. The additional traffic to this area would draw more visitors to our Center.

We appreciate your continued interest and support for our Center. Our Board of Directors has proudly maintained this property for the past 13 years as part of the legacy of your predecessor, Congressman Doug Bereuter. We hope that you will encourage your fellow members of the Nebraska Delegation to support legislation that would help ensure our long-term viability and sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas A. Friedli, Executive Director
The Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretative Trail & Visitor Center Foundation, Inc.
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[DISCUSSION DRAFT]115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R.** _____

To facilitate the use of certain land in Nebraska for public outdoor recreational opportunities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FORPENBERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To facilitate the use of certain land in Nebraska for public outdoor recreational opportunities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. USE OF CONVEYED LAND.**

4 Section 342(c) of the Consolidated Natural Resources
5 Act of 2008 is amended—

6 (1) by striking “The conveyance” and inserting
7 the following:

8 “(1) PRIMARY USE.—The conveyance”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(2) ADDITIONAL USE.—The Missouri River
2 Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor
3 Center Foundation, Inc. may use, or enter into a
4 lease or agreement with ~~the City of Nebraska City~~
5 ~~to use,~~ not more than 40 acres of the land con-
6 veyed under subsection (a) for public outdoor recre-
7 ation under the following conditions:

8 “(A) The land shall continue to be main-
9 tained in a manner that is compatible with the
10 use authorized in paragraph (1), conditions
11 stated in the deed for the land, and the memo-
12 randum of understanding with the National
13 Park Service dated June 2009.

14 “(B) The nature trail around the perim-
15 eter of the land shall remain in place and may
16 be enhanced with educational signage about the
17 flora and fauna that are native to the land and
18 planting of native flora.

19 “(C) Revenue from any use (including any
20 lease or agreement entered into) under this
21 paragraph shall be used to offset maintenance
22 and operating costs, ~~related to the use of the~~
23 ~~land under this subsection.”~~

*of the Lewis & Clark
Interpretive Center*