02/08/2023

Rep. Ken Rahjes, Chairman
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairman Rahjes and Members of the House Committee of Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I Brock Godinez, am writing to express my support for HB2331, creating Lehigh Portland State Park.

- Making Lehigh Portland a state park would benefit Iola and definitely the rest of the Southeast Kansas area. This is because, in the surrounding towns, I haven't seen trails as impressive as the ones in Iola. Also, the other towns do have lakes however, they're not as stunning as Elks lake which is an amazing spot for multiple activities and could be even better with state funding and oversight.
- For four years and even before I was a member of the Chanute cross country team our coach would have a Saturday practice from time to time on the Iola trails. These trails are perfect for cross country and any running in general. The scenery around is very beautiful and you don't get bored of it even after miles. Some of the trails are more inclosed in trees which looks stunning to walk or run through. It definitely feels like going on an adventure. My family has also enjoyed walking the trails and fishing before we were unable to due to no fishing. However, we still take our dogs down quite frequently and our dogs absolutely enjoy every bit of it as well.
- Iola and the surrounding cities will benefit greatly from the tourist that will stay overnight at our local hotels and dine at our restaurants. The tax revenue generated will likely be more than any other tourist attraction in Southeast Kansas.
- The lake and trails of this park are absolutely spectacular for the surrounding cities that don't have these amazing spots where they live. It is perfect for nature lovers, fishermen, runners, and dog walkers and could be even better with the guidance of the state.

Sincerely,

Brock Godinez
Resident of Chanute
Chanute High School Class of 2023