

From: cindy stevenson
To: [John Willey](#)
Subject: testimony for SB331
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March 6, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to inform you regarding the Flint Hills Trail located by Rantoul, Kansas and why it is a nuisance. The original contract said the land would revert back to the landowners once the railway was done using the land. This is still not the case and here are some issues that have risen from the trail being implemented.

Myself, my son, and daughter all live next to the Flint Hills Trail. I have lived by the old railroad tracks for 45+ years now. Since the trail has been in place I have dealt with people snooping around my property looking for metal and copper to steal from my farm equipment. People wandering off the trail and walking their horses into my fields and producing holes, etc...in my ground.

My son had people enter from the trail and break into his house and steal his belongings. Not only did he lose money and personal items it provided a sense of insecurity with his two children who had fears of someone breaking into their house again. My son also caught people walking around his garage trying to see in his windows because they thought he was not home. The sheriff was notified but it takes the sheriff too long to come that far out.

My daughter has had issues of people driving down the trail at night with their vehicles. The sheriff was called but the people were already gone since it takes the sheriff some significant time to come that far. She has seen people hunting off of the trail. She had two incidents where there has been an emergency and had to call 911. A gentleman died on the trail and some trail goers had to run a mile to her house to call for help because there was no service for the cell phones. When the teenagers arrived at her house to ask her to call 911, she immediately called and the dispatcher wanted to know if the man was in Franklin County or Miami County. She had to explain that she was not on the trail, but had strangers asking her to call for help from her house. The dispatcher also requested that she leave her house to go to the trail entrance and direct the emergency vehicles where to go because they didn't know where the entrance was. Another time before that two little girls got lost on the trail and wandered to her house for help. They were scared and hot from being in the middle of summer. My daughter called 911 to ask for help and to get the girls back to their parents. The 911 dispatcher asked if they were from Franklin County or Miami County. They were in Franklin County since they were at her house but lived in Miami County. My daughter had to call both counties and work out a deal with the sheriff to get the girls home. This is not her job but apparently the county, sheriff, etc...do not want to patrol the trail or be bothered with issues that arise from the trail. So how is the policing and patrolling the trail in a timely fashion going to be any better when clearly it is not good now. This should not be the landowners responsibility or duty. This is going to continue to be a nuisance to the landowner.

In the past, when trying to talk to the trail people who were implementing the trail, they would not acknowledge the landowners concerns, questions, etc...to only be disregarded, spoken to in a rude manner, and would not address questions about maintaining the trail, spraying for weeds and the upkeep of the maintenance, building fences/gates that were supposed to be built for the landowners. The landowners have a concern with their taxes increasing to take care of this trail, devaluing their property by having a trail that is exposed to strangers in a rural/country setting, and just the right to just be concerned with their properties and strangers being around their property.

Frederick A. Stevenson 4766 Rantoul, Ks. 66079
Thank you,

Fred Stevenson