



December 17, 2014

Ms. Corita Waters
National Park Service
National Recreation Trail Coordinator

Dear Ms. Waters,

On behalf of Visit South Bend Mishawaka, the official destination marketing organization for St. Joseph County, Indiana, I am writing to express our support for designation of the Kankakee River Water Trail as a National Water Trail. We support the designation of a National Water Trail for the entire 133 miles of the Kankakee River from the headwaters of the Kankakee River in rural St. Joseph County, Indiana, to the Des Plaines River in Illinois.

Based on the benefits of the creation of the Kankakee River National Water Trail, including increasing community-based recreational opportunities, increased public access, tourism, economic growth, public health improvements, and environmental education, Visit South Bend Mishawaka supports the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association and the Illinois representatives who are working together to apply for National Water Trail designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob DeCleene".

Rob DeCleene, CDME
Executive Director