

Pike National Historic Trail Association Suggested Letters of Support

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These are suggested open letters and resolutions of support for individuals, town mayors, county/parish commissions, chambers of commerce, history/heritage organizations, state legislatures and state governors.

To be most effective- Please consider including elements which are applicable to you, your town, parish, county or state. We have included many ideas in various letters to key off of.

Elements of the non-form letter, open letter, open resolution, etc.

1st - State what you want

2nd - Give broad reasons for your support

3rd - A comment or personal statement(s) regarding how the Pike National Historic Trail relates to you and your nation, state or locality.

Keep it to one page

Please visit the Pike National Historic Trail Association website www.zebulonpike.org for more specific information.

Open letter of support

[possible suggestion for governmental bodies]

We fully support the establishment of the Pike National Historic Trail as a National Historic Trail.

We support the legislation necessary in the process of designating the Pike National Historic Trail as a National Historic Trail including a feasibility study, resolutions, final designation, other appropriate measures.

We believe that the route of the Pike Expedition of 1806-7 more than satisfies the three qualifications of the National Trails system Act (P.L. 90-543) Section 5 (b) (11).

The Pike National Historic Trail has national significance with respect to exploration and eventual migration and settlement, trade and commerce on the Santa Fe Trail, and gathering information used in the Mexican American War.

The route of the Pike 1806-7 Expedition had a far reaching effect on the fulfillment of the doctrine of Manifest Destiny.

Native American paths were used. Native Americans guided portions of the Expedition. Captured Native Americans were brought back to their villages. Pike achieved acceptance for American control of the Great Plains.

The presence of a tourist and recreation potential is related to historic appreciation, interpretation, and preservation. Historic sites associated with the trail are in abundance, worthy of pedagogical, scholarly study, and preservation.

[Some ideas]-

We believe that The Highway of The Legends and the National Scenic and Historic Byway could be further enhanced in Huerfano County with added economic, and educational benefits.

or

We believe Pike became the father of the Santa Fe Trail, especially the Northern Route, because he explored regions along the Arkansas River, and, in essence, encouraged the commercial interests to build a route to Santa Fe through his reports of his expedition.

or

We believe Lt./Capt Pike and his men, in exploring large portions of the Louisiana Purchase and its watersheds, contributed greatly to our national heritage and should be recognized with a National Historic Trail designation.

or

We in Sackets Harbor NY, where General Pike is buried dying near here in the War of 1812, recognize the broader implications of Pike's expeditions and choose to support the Pike National Historic Trail.

or

any number of potential projects such as an auto tour, bike/hike tour, possible information brochures for the Osage sites in MO, Olpe KS, Santa Maria Ranch site in South Park CO, the Christmas site in Salida CO, El Paso TX, Mexico, San Antonio TX, Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes LA, et cetera.

Open Resolution of support

[possible suggestion for governmental bodies]

Whereas, The Pike Expedition Pike National Historic Trail fulfills all National Trails Act Qualifications,
Whereas,

Personal Open Letter #1

Pike National Historic Trail Assoc. 1/2010

Open letter of support or To whom it may concern,

I support the Pike National Historic Trail legislation. This legislation would add to the National Trails System the Historic Trail followed by Lt./Capt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men exploring a part of the Louisiana Purchase three years after the purchase.

The historic significance of Pike's effort in 1806-7 brings to note

- 1) The exploration, mapping and discovery in the vast lands in the Osage, Arkansas, South Platte and Rio Grande River watersheds;
- 2) The establishment of American sovereignty over lands in the central Great Plains;
- 3) The establishment of peace among Native American tribes with those in southwest Missouri, central Kansas and southern Nebraska;
- 4) The assistance by Pike to return Osage to their homeland and, in turn, their help returned to him.
- 5) The exploration of a vast portion of the interior of Mexico, and
- 6) The the cultivation of the idea of building a trade route and the eventual building of the Santa Fe Trail.

The Pike Trail materials will encourage tourism and interpretation in these areas of my state

[select information regarding the particular state]-

Missouri - The Missouri, Osage and Little Osage River basins, including the Ozarks and portions of the Truman Reservoir.

Kansas - Southeast and central Kansas to Red Cloud, Nebraska, Red Cloud/Guide Rock to Great Bend and Southwest following the Arkansas

Colorado - The Arkansas River to its source, the head waters of the South Platte River in South Park, the Wet Mountain and San Luis Valleys, the Rio Grande River south into New Mexico, and his attempt to climb Pikes Peak;

New Mexico - The Rio Grande River valley including Santa Fe and Albuquerque

Texas - El Paso, Eagle Pass through San Antonio, Austin, Crockett, and Nacogdoches

Louisiana - Natchitoches area

Personal Open Letter #2

Open letter of support or To whom it may concern,

I support the Pike National Historic Trail Act and other legislation necessary to designate and establish the Pike National Historic Trail. This legislation would add to the National Trails System the expeditionary route taken by Lt./Capt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men into the Louisiana Purchase.

Designation of the 1806-1807 Pike Expeditionary route will inspire a broader understanding of our nation and its many peoples. That trail traverses 3,664 miles through Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Mexico and Texas, touching Nebraska and Louisiana. This trail has tremendous historical significance and provides a chance to enrich the country's heritage through its preservation.

This is also an exciting opportunity to enhance public recreation. There are numerous recreational areas along the Pike route, such as in the Ozarks and lakes in Kansas, and several other potential sites to be used for such activities as biking and hiking. In addition to increasing public recreation there is also an opportunity to develop the role of tourism in Park County, Colorado. *alternate wording- "...enhance public recreation and tourism. There are numerous areas along the Pike route that lend themselves to biking, hiking, camping, and historical tourism. Virtually every county that Pike passed through could benefit from the designation of a national historic trail."*

The expansion of the National Trails System Act will benefit all American people by honoring a historic expedition, improving public recreation, and developing tourism.

Thank you,

Personal Open Letter #3

Open letter of support or To whom it may concern,

I support the Pike National Historic Trail legislation and in the steps required to enable the Pike National Historic Trail. The legislation will enable the commemoration of Lt./Capt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike and his men in the earliest American exploration of the Louisiana Purchase in 1806-1807, and allow the establishment of several historic interpretive efforts.

The 3664 mile path Pike followed will help the tourism efforts in my state because the Pike National Historic Trail will pass through

Sincerely,

Personal Open Letter #4

Open letter of support or To whom it may concern,

I(we) support of legislation to authorize a feasibility study for the creation of the *Pike National Historic Trail*.

I(we) believe that Zebulon Pike made a significant contribution to our state's/nation's history. We believe that economic and educational benefits would be derived through site preservation, tourism, and historical research.

Pike was in _____ from _____.

Zebulon Pike's exploration of the Louisiana Purchase and travels through Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana, contributed to the expansion of our great nation, exhibited our national spirit and determination and gives us a chance to help us make history by preserving for adults and children this part of our national heritage..

Sincerely,

Open letter of support

I fully support the establishment of the *Pike National Historic Trail* as a National Historic Trail.

These pieces of legislation, authorizing a feasibility study through its designation, would add to the National Trails System a trail of historic importance.

I believe that the Pike National Historic Trail ranks high with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Santa Fe National Historic Trail, Pony Express National Historic Trail and Oregon National Historic Trail and should have been designated years ago (in 1978).

I believe that designation would greatly enhance efforts to

- a) protect and preserve known Pike sites,
- b) stimulate investigation to establish additional Pike sites, and
- c) interpret of those sites.

I further believe that much of the funding for these efforts would come from the private sector.

I believe that the economic benefits for towns could be substantial through increased tourism. The auto tour, hiking, biking and geocaching communities seem constantly interested in new challenges.

I believe that educational benefits would be realized. We have long neglected studying the Pike legacy. The Pike 1806 Expedition was the first American exploration of the south west. He stimulated the building of the Santa Fe trail, and contributed to the belief that American expansion was inevitable and justified.

I also believe that the proposed Pike National Historic Trail satisfies the three qualifications for National Historic Trails required in the National Trails system Act (P.L. 90-543) Section 5 (b) (11).

As a life long resident of the Chicago Illinois area I wish to add my support. It's long overdue.

Sincerely,