

Rep. Griffin offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 203.

A resolution to urge the continued work on Route 1 of the Great Lake to Lake Trails and to encourage continued commitment of state resources to the effort.

Whereas, Michigan leads the nation with over 12,500 miles of recreational use trails and the most rail trail miles of any state. These trails provide important recreational and tourism opportunities in the state; and

Whereas, Route 1 is one of five planned Great Lake to Lake Trails created by connecting existing trailways to establish a continuous trail extending from one Great Lake to another. Route 1 encompasses fifteen existing trails that are being connected to form a continuous trailway from South Haven to Port Huron, connecting Lake Michigan to Lake Huron. Route 1 crosses nine counties and incorporates the cities of South Haven, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Jackson, Ann Arbor, Pontiac, Novi, Rochester, Sterling Heights, and Port Huron; and

Whereas, Connecting the many individual trails to extend from one Great Lake to another will provide economic and other benefits for the communities and tourist attractions along these trails. Completion of Route 1 will allow individuals to connect socially with their neighbors, encourage outdoor health and fitness, provide outdoor education, and protect and enhance our environment; and

Whereas, Additional Great Lake to Lake Trails are planned between Muskegon and Bay City, Charlevoix and Alpena, Manistique and Marquette, and Escanaba and Porcupine Mountain State Park; and

Whereas, Michigan's exemplary trail system is the shared effort of public and private partnerships. The many stakeholders involved in taking the Great Lake to Lake Trails from dream to reality have provided focus and commitment, bringing together numerous volunteers at the local level with key state agencies to create one of the best trail systems in the nation. A continued commitment is necessary to ensure that the trails are completed in a timely manner; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge continued work on Route 1 of the Great Lake to Lake Trails to ensure that this route is completed by 2019; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage and direct the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Transportation to continue to demonstrate the exemplary conduct of interagency cooperation that they have shown so far and commit all practical resources and energy to finish Route 1; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, the members of the Natural Resources Commission, the Director of the Department of Transportation, and the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.