



The legal resource for natural resources.

705 Olive Street, Suite 614, St. Louis, MO 63101-2208, Telephone (314) 231-4181, facsimile (314) 231-4184

www.greatriverslaw.org

For Immediate Release

September 5, 2006

For More Information Contact:

Jim Wilson
Chairman, Board of Directors
Great Rivers Environmental Law Center
(314) 351-5660

Bruce Morrison
General Counsel
(314) 231-4181
bamorrison@greatriverslaw.org

**Great Rivers Environmental Law Center Moves for Leave to
File Amicus Brief on Behalf of Three Former DNR Directors In Opposition to
Governor Blunt's No-Bid Giveaway of Katy Trail Real Estate**

Tuesday, September 5, 2006

Great Rivers Environmental Law Center moved for leave to file an Amicus Brief in the Missouri Court of Appeals on behalf of three former directors of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The bipartisan group is expressing its support for Attorney General Jay Nixon's case against Governor Matt Blunt over Blunt's no-bid giveaway of the Boonville Bridge. The three former directors opposing the giveaway are Frederick Brunner, G. Tracy Mehan, III, and Stephen Mahfood.

Brunner executed the agreement on behalf of the DNR in 1987. G. Tracy Mehan, III, was director of the DNR when the Katy Trail was opened in 1992. Steve Mahfood was director in 2004 and opposed Union Pacific's efforts to remove the Boonville Bridge. All three shared the same understanding that the Boonville Bridge would remain part of the rail-banked Katy Trail corridor and that the Boonville Bridge was required to be kept available for transportation purposes.

The three former directors join Pat Jones, who, with her husband Ted Jones, donated over \$2 million to the state of Missouri for the creation of the Katy Trail and understood the bridge would remain a part of it. They also join Raye Reynolds, the former official of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, who executed the Agreement with the State transferring the Katy Trail's operating corridor to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

"Governor Blunt and Union Pacific Railroad schemed to transfer the bridge at the expense of the state's rights," said Jim Wilson, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Great Rivers Environmental Law Center. "Union Pacific Railroad stands to gain millions of dollars as a result of the no-bid giveaway of the state's real estate rights to the Boonville bridge. We think it's significant that three former DNR directors agree that the intent of the Katy Trail donors, Edward and Pat Jones, should be respected and that the Bridge should not be removed."

Great Rivers is a nonprofit public interest environmental law firm in St. Louis that provides free legal services to those working to promote preservation of open space, clean energy, clean air and clean water. Its web address is: www.greatriverslaw.org.