



For Immediate Release

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### **KATY TRAIL DONOR WANTS TO SUBMIT INFORMATION IN KATY BRIDGE LAWSUIT**

Pat Jones, the widow of Edward “Ted” Jones, has submitted a Motion to File a “Friend of the Court” brief in the Katy Trail lawsuit with detailed information regarding her expectations. Great Rivers Environmental Law Center is representing Mrs. Jones in this matter.

Pat and Edward Jones donated a total of \$2.2 million to the State of Missouri for acquisition and improvements to what is now the Katy Trail. As such, the Jones were the major source for funding that led to the “rails to trails” agreement and to subsequent renovations to make the rail corridor suitable for trail use.

Union Pacific Railroad Company, which acquired the trail corridor – and the contract with the State of Missouri - from the now-defunct MKT Railroad, wants to dismantle the Boonville Bridge, move parts of it to the Osage River, and sell the rest. However, the contract specifies that the Boonville Lift Bridge must be kept available for railroad purposes, and that the State may use the bridge in the interim upon accepting liability.

“At the hearing prior to the acquisition of the Katy Trail the railroad spoke of the difficulty of putting together a corridor for rail use and the folly of abandoning such a corridor once it had been established. The country may well need to restore rail transportation for the cargo that now clogs the highways. This may mean that parts of the Katy trail will once again be converted to accommodate freight. The Bridge could very well be necessary for rail use in the future. It should not be used as a political pawn to be moved for favors received, nor should the intent of our gift to the people of Missouri be ignored,” said Pat Jones.

“Without the Jones’ money, there would be no Katy Trail. Union Pacific’s proposed actions to move that bridge to the Osage River would constitute a clear violation of the contract – and it is our assertion that demolition or removal of the bridge could jeopardize the entire trail agreement, placing the Jones donation at risk,” stated James Wilson, President of Great Rivers Environmental Law Center.

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