Secretary Greg Thomas  
Office of the Secretary, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet   
200 Mero Street  
Frankfort, KY 40622

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Date

Dear Secretary Thomas,

I strongly oppose the construction of an Interstate 65 - 71 regional connector through Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest. Bernheim protects endangered species, provides clean air, water, scenic beauty and brings joy to thousands of visitors each year. The highway threatens this pristine and protected conservation land.

Bernheim is a community asset, not just because of conservation work, but also due to the health and economic benefits it provides. The beauty of a peaceful environment like Bernheim attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors to the region each year. Everyone in the community benefits from the beauty and the clean air and water, and tourism that Bernheim provides. In a growing economy like Bullitt County, Bernheim is a powerful resource for talent attraction and retention.

The route of the proposed highway cuts directly through an area that is home to federally endangered Indiana bats, northern long-eared bats, Kentucky glade cress, bluff vertigo snail, and the recently discovered hidden spring snail. This project will negatively impact cave systems, springs, streams, mature forests, knobs, and rock outcroppings on which these species depend.

I stand with large forests, abundant wildlife, clean streams, clean air, wild places, kids in nature, vibrant rural communities, and Bernheim Forest. This proposed highway route will cause too much environmental harm. I urge you to pursue an alternate route that will keep this pristine large forest block intact, and protect endangered species. Don’t destroy Bernheim as we know it. Find another route!

Sincerely,

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Signature

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City, State, Zip