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**For Immediate Release:  
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## **Missouri Parks Association Views Boonville Bridge as a Key Katy Trail Linkage**

**Columbia, Missouri, July 20, 2005** — The Missouri Parks Association (MPA), the citizen support organization for the Missouri State Park System, has called on Missouri Governor Matt Blunt and Department of Natural Resources Director Doyle Childers to explore all possible options to preserve the Boonville Bridge, a key Missouri River span in the Katy Trail State Park.

MPA is concerned that transferring the state's right to the use of the bridge to the Union Pacific Railroad, which plans to remove and relocate the structure to the Osage River, may create a severance in the trail that could put the 230-mile-long Katy Trail State Park in legal jeopardy.

Former Katy Trail Coalition Chairman Darwin Hindman, who was in attendance at a special MPA meeting July 8 in Columbia, told the group that he is working with Boonville residents and other citizens to find a way to save the historic Boonville Bridge, which is located at a critical juncture in the region's history. "Until you are up high on that structure and looking out over the majestic Missouri River for miles and miles you simply can't appreciate its true value as an asset to the trail," Hindman said.

The Missouri Parks Association believes that the Boonville Bridge should continue to span the Missouri River at Boonville in order to safeguard the integrity of the Katy Trail State Park, protect a valuable historical resource, and provide a corridor for the Katy Trail across the Missouri River.

In letters to the governor and the director of the Department of Natural Resources, MPA President Ron Coleman appealed to them to explore all options to save the bridge and to cooperate and form partnerships with the City of Boonville and other organizations in an effort to preserve and develop the Boonville Bridge as a recreational facility, an historical attraction, and a tourism destination.

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**Missouri Parks Association Resolution**  
**Boonville Bridge and Katy Trail State Park**  
**8 July 2005**

Whereas, the Missouri Parks Association is a citizens organization dedicated to the protection, enhancement, and interpretation of Missouri state parks and historic sites; and

Whereas, the former MKT Railroad right of way from Sedalia, Missouri to Machens, Missouri has been railbanked under the provisions of the National Trails System Act of 1983; and

Whereas, the Katy Trail State Park has developed by the State of Missouri on this former MKT Railroad right of way; and

Whereas, the Katy Trail State Park is internationally recognized as a world class recreational facility and tourism destination that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year; and

Whereas, in the 1987 contract between the MKT Railroad and the State of Missouri, the MKT was paid \$200,000 for the right-of way from Sedalia to Machens; and

Whereas, the State of Missouri, in order to ensure lasting integrity of the railbanked corridor, expressly required in the 1987 contract that the Boonville Bridge “shall be kept available for transportation purposes” at Boonville as part of the federally approved railbank; and

Whereas, the State of Missouri, in this 1987 contract, acquired the right to use the Boonville Bridge as part of the Katy Trail; and

Whereas, the State agreed to maintain the integrity of the former MKT Railroad right of way from Sedalia, Missouri to Machens, Missouri in order to qualify for the protection of the railbanking provisions of the National Trails System Act of 1983 against claims from adjoining landowners; and

Whereas, the State of Missouri has proposed to give the right to use the Boonville Bridge to the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) in order that the UP may remove the bridge; and

Whereas, the removal of the Boonville Bridge may create a severance in the former MKT right of way and risk the loss of the protection of the railbanking provisions of the National Trails System Act of 1983; and

Whereas, the Boonville Bridge is recognized as an historically significant structure that has been declared eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; and

Whereas, the City of Boonville has taken steps, as part of its economic development program, to develop the Boonville Bridge as a recreational facility, an historical attraction and as a tourism destination; and

Whereas, the Attorney General of the State of Missouri has raised serious legal and constitutional questions regarding the proposed transfer of the state's rights to the Boonville Bridge to Union Pacific; and

Whereas, the Attorney General of the State of Missouri has filed a lawsuit in the Cooper County Circuit Court to prevent the transfer of the state's rights to the Boonville Bridge to Union Pacific;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the board of directors of the Missouri Parks Association, meeting in Columbia, Missouri, on 8 July 2005, that the Missouri Parks Association believes the Boonville Bridge should continue to span the Missouri River at Boonville in order to safeguard the integrity of the Katy Trail State Park, protect a valuable historical resource, and provide a corridor for the Katy Trail across the Missouri River; and

Be it further resolved that the Missouri Parks Association urges the State of Missouri to cooperate and form partnerships with the City of Boonville and other organizations in efforts to preserve and develop the Boonville Bridge as a recreational facility, an historical attraction, and a tourism destination.

Signed this date of July 8, 2005 at Columbia, Missouri, by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Coleman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ron Coleman, President  
Missouri Parks Association