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- COMMISSIONERS -

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Bradley R. Reed
Chief of Parks
WV Department of Natural Resources
Parks & Recreation Section
324 4th Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

February 6, 2023

Re: Cacapon Resort State Park RV RFP

Dear Chief Reed,

Let us start by expressing our sincere gratitude for the support that the WV Division of Natural Resources has shown to Cacapon Resort State Park. We couldn't be more proud of our beautiful new Lodge and accommodations and other improvements made over the last few years. Furthermore, we can't thank you enough for your recent support of the new mountain bike trail construction and the match provided for the Federal EDA grant to see that project to the finish line.

In regards to the recent RFP released by the WV DNR for the construction of an RV park in Cacapon State Park, we would like to express some concerns that were shared with us by a rather large group of citizens at our public County Commission meeting last week. Many of the concerns are ones you would expect when a project such as this is proposed in one of our beloved state parks: damage to native plant species and natural habitats, runoff, clear-cutting trees, excessive traffic, noise pollution, light pollution, stress to the current water/sewer/electric infrastructure, etc.

Some of the concerns are even more specific to the only area used as a "suggested" example in the RFP. These include the removal of "old growth" trees, runoff and pollution into the confluence of streams there, particularly Indian Run, the elimination of naturalist-led educational instruction in the habitats surrounding the Nature Center and the potential conflict with one of our cornerstone mountain bike trails, Rock & Roll.

This latter issue is of specific concern to the Commission due to our sizeable investment in the overall mountain bike trail plan and the important role this area plays in that plan. As I mentioned earlier, the Rock & Roll trail is our cornerstone trail and can be ridden by enthusiasts of all ages and skill sets. It is mostly hand-built and it is estimated that \$70,000 worth of volunteer labor was used to complete this trail on a limited budget in the beginning. Many of those volunteers have voiced their displeasure that the DNR would even think about this area for an RV park after considering all the long, hard hours our volunteers dedicated to this effort.

Furthermore, a representative from NICA, the group that hosted the middle/high school age race and brought in over 200 racers and hundreds more visitors, stated that it would be difficult if not impossible to continue to host the NICA race in this location if a campground was placed in the middle of the loop.

In conclusion, we hope that you can understand our apprehension at the thought of placing an RV park in this particular location. We have been assured by a member of your team that this spot was merely a suggestion and that any location in the park is a viable option. But if you put yourself in the shoes of the vendors responding to the RFP you'll see how they would naturally gravitate toward this area after seeing it suggested in print.

We urge you, your team and the scoring committee to thoroughly consider the size and scope of any project approved inside the boundary of Cacapon State park. And most importantly, please thoroughly contemplate the location of such a project and the effect that it will have on the habitat and aesthetics of that area and how it may negatively impact the existing infrastructure and the mountain bike trail plan that we both have so greatly invested in.

If we can answer any questions or concerns or be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,



Sean Forney



Joel Tuttle



Bill Clark

Cc: Senator Charles Trump
Senator Craig Blair
Delegate George Miller
Delegate Darren Thorne