

Dear [Name of Member of Congress],

I'm writing to ask for your support of the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act, H.R. 799. This bill, revising the authorized route, is a simple, uncomplicated, common sense solution that would correct an error in route planning that occurred when Congress designated the trail more than 30 years ago. It is truly a bipartisan endeavor supported by not just me, but by hikers who come from all over to enjoy our North Country Trail, which travels through our own district.

H.R. 799 would incorporate existing hiking trails in Minnesota's Boundary Waters and North Shore of Lake Superior into the North Country National Scenic Trail and replace the current stretch of proposed trail that would bring hikers through extensive unnavigable black spruce and tamarack wetlands. The bill would also extend the NCT at its eastern terminus near Middlebury, VT, linking it to the popular Appalachian Trail along the eastern coast of the United States. This would establish one unified national trail system which would stretch from the plains of North Dakota to the forests of Vermont, as far north as Maine and as far south as Georgia.

In 2013 alone, volunteers donated nearly \$2 million worth of volunteer labor to build and maintain the North Country Trail and contributed almost \$400,000 in cash towards these efforts. The National Park Service even stated that the minimal costs of this reroute can be absorbed by existing appropriations because it is volunteer-driven!

This bill is supported by the North Country Trail Association, the American Hiking Society, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy among many other outdoor recreation organizations as well as by the National Park Service.

Thank you for your time and for your support of our nation's trails and outdoor heritage. It's my hope you will cosponsor H.R.799. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Thank you,

[Your name and address]