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Testimony  
Before the Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States House of Representative

Hearing on the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the potential  
extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail  
October 4, 2006

As a board member of several local, state, and national organizations involved with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, thank you for this opportunity to share my insights. The Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery was the first of the great explorations undertaken by the United States. The idea, the planning, and the journey began in the East. This part of the trail is now known as the Eastern Legacy.

Stephen E. Ambrose historian and author of the best-seller, *Undaunted Courage*, wrote extensively of the Eastern Legacy's contributions to the expedition. He validated the significance of Clarksville and the Falls of the Ohio area to the expedition on page 117 of *Undaunted Courage* with "When they shook hands, the Lewis and Clark Expedition began." As a board member of the Clark-Floyd Counties Convention and Tourism Bureau, I am proud that our bureau played a major role in raising awareness of Clarksville's untold story in our community and throughout the nation.

The National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration recognized the Bicentennial as an opportunity to tell the entire story, including the untold stories, and it selected American communities from Charlottesville, Virginia to Astoria, Oregon for national heritage Signature Events during the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 2003-2006. Each community was chosen for its place in the expedition's chronology, its historical relevance, cultural diversity, tribal involvement and geographic location. Clarksville-Louisville was selected as the second Signature Event. This selection shows that the national board knew the Falls of the Ohio area was part of the trail. I am a member of the board of directors of the National Council.

I also serve on the board of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., whose motto is "Keepers of the story and Stewards of the trail." In August of 2006 the board approved its 2006-2010 strategic plan. Included in the plan is its mission statement. "As Keepers of the Story~Stewards of the Trail, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. provides the national leadership of the Trail and its story through stewardship, scholarship, education, partnership and cultural inclusiveness. To accomplish this mission, LCTHF will: Advocate for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, from sea to sea, and the preservation and protection of its physical, historical and cultural resources for future generations." Advocating for extension of the trail was listed as the first priority of the mission statement of the strategic plan. Again, a national board understands this is truly a national trail. Wendy Raney, Director of Field Operations, for the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation can provide additional comments. Reach her at [wraney@lewisandclark.org](mailto:wraney@lewisandclark.org). Phone: 406-454-1234.

Because Indiana and other Eastern legacy sites are not part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, programs and funding are not available as they are to certified trail states. Extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail would be a lasting legacy of the Bicentennial. The National Park Service has been a wonderful partner during the Bicentennial and the extension would at last acknowledge contributions of the Eastern Legacy to the success of this greatest of American adventures.

Thank you for consideration of extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

