

Firelands Rails to Trails, Inc.

North Coast Inland Trail – Huron County

44 East Main Street Norwalk, OH 44857

www.firelandsrailstotrails.org



LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

What is a Letter of Endorsement?(LOE)

A Letter of Endorsement is just that – an actual letter from a business, civic group, organization, or political or municipal entity endorsing and supporting the efforts of Firelands Rails to Trails, Inc. (FRTTI) and the North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT) in Huron County.

What is the purpose of a Letter of Endorsement and where are the LOE's listed?

LOE's are listed in our brochure. The LOE's clearly indicate who in the community supports our efforts in our trail construction project. When we apply for grants, the very first thing a potential grantor will do is to find out how much support FRTTI has in the community. A long list of LOE's in our literature will demonstrate this in a clear and concise manner.

Over the past ten years FRTTI has applied for grants and successfully received funding from private and corporate funds, state funds, and federal funds. This is funding which has been previously allocated for bike trails and will be awarded to any local trail group or park district who applies. Multiple times we have been told by the grantor that the reason we received funding and other applicants did not was due to the long list of community support in the form of Letters of Endorsement as listed in our trail brochure.

How does a Membership differ from a LOE?

FRTTI is made up of individual members (roughly 200 individuals, families, business, and civic groups) who support us financially through memberships and donations. A LOE has no dollars attached to it. It is simply a letter of support. However, while a business or organization may be a member and also an endorser; memberships and LOE's are separate items.

Again, LOE's must come from businesses, civic groups and political entities. Individuals and families may be members, but may not draft LOE's. LOE supporters are listed in our brochure, members are not.

What would a Letter of Endorsement say?

Typical language of a LOE might read:

"XYZ Corporation of Norwalk wholeheartedly supports Firelands Rails to Trails in the construction of the North Coast Inland Trail in Huron County...."

Or

"The ABC Service Club of Bellevue supports FRTTI in their efforts to build and maintain the NCIT and we support well managed and well maintained recreational trails in our community....."

How do I send a LOE to FRTTI?

Simply send us a letter of support on your letterhead to the address above via mail or email. We will keep it on file and will list your business, civic group, or political entity in the next printing of our brochure which is done twice yearly.

Thank you for your support and remember: There are funds available from many sources – these are funds which will be spent on bike trails somewhere in Ohio! It's up to you to show support and bring that money here to Huron County or it will be spent elsewhere! The squeaky wheel gets the grease!