



Statement of Support of the Ecusta Trail

While many Brevard and Hendersonville locals have heard of the proposed “rails to trails” Ecusta Trail project, which will take an out-of-service rail line and turn it into a greenway between the two towns, we want our guests and visitors to the area to know that the trail will provide them with yet another option for fun when visiting Pisgah National Forest and our area.

While many consider Ecusta Trail a recreational amenity that will add another outlet for fun in our area, which is undoubtedly true, it is arguably more importantly an economic development opportunity. Rails to trails projects often stimulate local economies by increasing tourism and promoting local business along or in close proximity to the trail.

A 2012 planning and economic impact study concluded that initial construction would infuse \$42 million into the community plus an annual benefit of \$9.4 million in tourism revenue, health care cost savings, and increased property values along the trail. Tax rates for these properties will not change.

Brevard and Hendersonville are both charming small towns experiencing change. Pilot Cove sees the abandoned rail line as an incredible opportunity that will benefit present and future community needs both recreationally and economically. The currently-proposed trail terminus in Brevard is 2 miles and about a 5-minute drive from Pilot Cove. We are so happy to see the Ecusta Trail closer to becoming a reality and offer our full support.

In support,

Lane Lastinger

Beth Lastinger

Collin O'Berry

Jenni O'Berry

Syl Neel

Pilot Cove is a premier hospitality resort for family fun and outdoor recreation tourism. Located adjacent to the vast Pisgah National Forest and its renowned trails and trophy waters, Pilot Cove is also a short drive or ride from Brevard NC, offering the perfect basecamp for your complete vacation experience.

pilotcove.com