

**RESOLUTION NO. 022315-2**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LETTER OF SUPPORT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE CHISHOLM AND GREAT WESTERN TRAILS AS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS BY THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Chisholm and Great Western National Historic Trail commemorates the routes followed by upwards of ten million cattle as they traveled northbound from southern Texas to Kansas and adjacent destinations between 1867 and the 1880s;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Abilene is historically known as the terminus of the Chisholm Trail and is an important part of Abilene's heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission finds that it is in the public interest to support the effort to designate the Chisholm Trail as a National Historic Trail.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Commission of the City of Abilene, as follows:

**SECTION ONE. Letter of Support.** That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Letter of Support, as attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, demonstrating the City's official support of the Draft Chisholm and Great Western National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environment Assessment prepared by the National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region.

**SECTION TWO. Distribution.** The City Manager is hereby authorized to provide copies of the Letter of Support to the City of Abilene's federal delegation and the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

**SECTION THREE. Effective Date.** That the effects of this Resolution shall be in full force after its approval by the City Commission.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Governing Body of the City of Abilene, Kansas this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2015.



**CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS**

By: Brenda Finn Bowers  
Brenda Finn Bowers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Penny Soukup  
Penny Soukup, City Clerk

**EXHIBIT A**

**Letter of Support**

**Chisholm and Great Western Trails**

**Draft Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment**

**February 23, 2015**



Dwight D. Eisenhower Municipal Building  
419 N. Broadway Street, PO Box 519  
Abilene, KS 67410  
[www.abilenecityhall.com](http://www.abilenecityhall.com)  
Phone: (785) 263-2550  
Fax: (785) 263-2552

February 23, 2015

Chief of Planning  
Gretchen Ward  
National Trails Intermountain Region  
National Park Service  
PO Box 728  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

RE: Chisholm and Great Western National Historic Trails Feasibility Study and Draft Environmental Assessment

Ms. Ward:

On behalf of the City of Abilene, Kansas, I provide this letter in support of the National Park Service's draft Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment concerning the designation of the Chisholm and Great Western Trails as National Historic Trails.

As you may know, Abilene is historically considered the terminus of Chisholm Trail. The designation of the Chisholm Trail as a National Historic Trail would provide a significant step to preserving this important story of Abilene's and the great American west's heritage. The cattle trails connected cattle with a viable market, and ultimately secured a lasting legacy for the American cowboy.

Abilene's history has been strongly shaped by the legends associated with the Chisholm Trail. Joseph McCoy, arguably one of the first agricultural entrepreneurs in the nation, built and marketed the Chisholm Trail as a way to connect cattle to metropolitan markets. This story is really about connecting people through commerce, and is indicative of the American-style capitalism that built our nation.

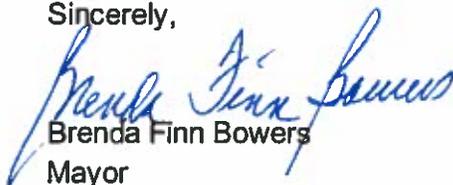
The City of Abilene has high aspirations that the designation of the Chisholm Trail as a National Historic Trail will provide an opportunity to share this American story with citizens throughout the nation and world. As such, Alternative B, or the designation of both the Chisholm and Great Western Trails as an administrative unit, would provide direction and guidance on a path forward to sharing this important story for Abilene and the American West.

Designation is preferred, but it is understood to be the first step in a process. At a minimum, a comprehensive management plan should be developed to provide more thorough recommendations for how the Department of Interior will assist in the implementation of preserving these important trails. The City of Abilene is willing to partner with the U.S. Department of Interior on this endeavor.



The City of Abilene believes that designating the Chisholm and Great Western Trails as National Historic Trails is in the best interests of the American public. The City is of the opinion that the Chisholm and Great Western Trails met the criteria set forth by the National Park Service for designation as National Historic Trails, and further recommends the U.S. Department of Interior to recommend Congress to designate the Chisholm and Great Western Trails as National Historic Trails based on the thorough documentation found in the Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,



Brenda Finn Bowers  
Mayor

CC: Honorable Senator Pat Roberts  
Honorable Senator Jerry Moran  
Honorable Congressman Tim Huelskamp

