

September 10, 2020

Dear Board Members of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation and
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning,

The Nature Conservancy's Tennessee Chapter has a long history of partnership with both the Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. We appreciate the opportunity to review and offer support for the Oak Ridge Blueways proposal.

The Nature Conservancy is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Particularly during this year, we have seen that people have a deep and abiding connection to the natural world. This is evidenced by the numbers of people turning to outdoor activities during the pandemic. It is a place for family fun as well as a place of solace and quiet—a balm for the soul. Therefore, our vision to create a world where people and nature thrive is even more important than ever.

The Oak Ridge Blueways proposal is an excellent opportunity to benefit both people and nature. The vision conserves the rich biological diversity of the Three Bends area while providing both economic opportunity and access to nature for the citizens of Oak Ridge and the surrounding region.

Thank you for your leadership and advocacy for such a special place.

Sincerely,



Terry Cook
State Director
The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee