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Harvey Broome Group  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
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September 9, 2020

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

The Harvey Broome Group, Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club has a long history of partnership with both the Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. We thank you for the opportunity to review this position statement. We strongly support your vision for the Oak Ridge Blueway.

The Oak Ridge Blueway will benefit both people and nature. The position statement provides a vision that conserves the rich biological diversity of the Oak Ridge Reservation and the historical significance of the Three Bends area while providing both economic opportunity and access to nature. This complements the Tennessee River Valley Stewardship's goal of advancing geotourism in the region, and expands on the Tennessee RiverLine's vision of a multimodal system of trail experiences along the nearby Tennessee River.

The Sierra Club has, for over 100 years, provided opportunities for people to explore, enjoy, and protect the natural world that we depend on for the many ecosystem services they provide. Nearly the entire Blueway river-right is occupied by undeveloped and relatively intact forested watersheds of high biodiversity and ecological value. This 26-mile Blueway will provide greater opportunity for visitors to appreciate, study, and learn from these natural areas. Blueway river-left is mostly private land that is currently sparsely developed and remains of high environmental value. This Blueway will provide additional incentives for continued environmental protections.

The Harvey Broome Group's Inspiring Connections Outdoors program regularly uses the swimming, hiking, boating, and picnic facilities of Clark Center Park for outings with youth and adults that do not have ready access to outdoor public recreational spaces. For us, making Clark Center Park a focal point for access strengthens your position statement. We have also offered hikes on the Solway Park trails and paddling at Melton Lake Park and the three bends near Clark Center Park. We plan to work with you on introducing new visitors, providing more access, and increasing the knowledge of this area's remarkable natural features. Designation of this Blueway will make our outings there more attractive to the people that we directly and indirectly serve.

TVA's Bull Run Steam Plant, located river-left on the proposed Blueway between Melton Lake Park and Solway Park, is slated for decommissioning by 2024. The Harvey Broome Group is working with residents of the local communities to make sure that the decommissioning and future transition to new purposes is environmentally sound. Of particular concern are the coal ash pits that are leaking

contaminants into the proposed Blueway waters, and fly ash piles. We are working with these residents and their elected officials to pressure TVA to remove these environmental hazards and have the site remediated, thereby increasing the water quality of this Blueway.

This position statement sets forth important ideas that will catalyze, locally and for the region, new investments in economic opportunity, social health, and ecological stewardship. We look forward to collaborating with you and working with local officials, both State and Federal Agencies, and regional non-profits, and businesses to ensure that this vision can be achieved with the greatest success for nature and people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Logan". The signature is written in a light gray or blue ink.

Joanne Logan

Harvey Broome Group Chair, Knoxville, TN

Executive Committee Members: Kristine Johnson, Stan Johnson, Kent Minault, Axel Ringe, Will Skelton, Dan Terpstra, Gerry Thornton, Joan Tomlinson, Martie Ulmer, Todd Waterman