



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0435

JAMES H. FYKE  
COMMISSIONER

PHIL BREDESEN  
GOVERNOR

October 14, 2005

Ms. Jo Ann Thompson  
Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation  
136 West Revere Circle  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Ms. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of September 16, 2005, expressing AFORR's wish for my success as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and support for TDEC's efforts to preserve the natural resources on the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation. I enjoyed speaking at the TDEC Appreciation Luncheon co-sponsored by AFORR, the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Greenways Oak Ridge and the Oak Ridge Heritage Preservation Association. I understand the importance of community support in assisting the state in achieving its goals and appreciate AFORR's willingness to participate in the effort.

You mention specifically the need for an update on the progress being made by TDEC and TWRA on implementation of the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement Management Plan and the possibility for additional public input. The draft management plan is under final review. We plan to release it to the public before the end of this year. The final management plan will consider all public comment received to date.

In addition, the Division of Natural Heritage and TWRA would welcome any offers of volunteer assistance in developing the necessary infrastructure to open and maintain the Black Oak Ridge property to public access. Soon after the management plan is finalized, we will begin to develop plans to install the first trailhead and hiking trail. At that time, we will be soliciting volunteer assistance.

I appreciate AFORR's interest in assisting TDEC in our shared goal to protect and preserve the natural resources on the Oak Ridge Reservation. TDEC depends on community organizations like those we spoke to in Oak Ridge to assist and support our efforts to maintain the state's natural areas for the future benefit of all Tennesseans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James H. Fyke'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James H. Fyke

cc: Gary Myers, Executive Director, TWRA