



## Help BMTA Succeed in Its Quest to Become the 12<sup>th</sup> National Scenic Trail

House Bill #7884, the “Benton MacKaye Scenic Trail Act”, was introduced in the House May 27, 2022! Please contact your member of Congress to explain why YOU think the BMT should become a National Scenic Trail.

In most cases you will need to know your ZIP+4 extension.

To find your ZIP+4, type “zip code lookup” in your browser. Use “Find by Address”. Note your ZIP+4. Then type [house.gov](https://www.house.gov) in your browser.

In the “FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE” search box (top right), enter your ZIP+4.

Select your Representative’s name (near your Representative’s picture on the left).

Select “CONTACT” (usually in the top menu bar).

To send an email, follow the instructions for completing the form — fill in name, address, phone, email address, etc.)

Be sure to click the “I’m not a robot” option when it appears!

If you get a response “*the address you entered could not be found in our database*”, it may be because you are not a registered voter in that district. Perhaps it is your vacation home. Emails are deleted if they are not from constituents.

You may need to choose your “issue of concern”. If so, choose “Other” and enter: “National Scenic Trail”.

Then enter your comments. Suggested topics include:

- ◆ Becoming a National Scenic Trail will bring an economic boost to communities near the trail.
- ◆ Thousands of hikers use the Benton MacKaye Trail every year.
- ◆ Scenic vistas, spectacular waterfalls and bubbling streams highlight the hikers’ journey as they enjoy the wide array of wildflowers in the spring, the emerald-green forest of summer, the colorful fall leaves or an exquisite winter wonderland.
- ◆ Hikers and their families will patronize local campgrounds, restaurants, lodging, shuttles, outdoor retailers, etc.
- ◆ The 750-member Benton MacKaye Trail Association has a 40-year history of maintaining the 288-mile-long Benton MacKaye Trail.
- ◆ The trail is complete — it has just 15 miles of road walk remaining.
- ◆ This would be good for the breath-taking natural landscapes that encompass the BMT and at the same time, would be a boon to the local economies. I encourage you to support this issue.

If you’re willing to go the extra mile for BMTA (and to give a few more minutes and a stamp), please consider ALSO writing a personal note to your member of Congress. We’re told that sometimes those have even more impact than email messages. If you are willing to do this, please send your note to:

The Honorable (Insert the Name of your Representative)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515