



Help BMTA Succeed in Its Quest to Become the 12th National Scenic Trail

House Bill #7884, the “Benton MacKaye Scenic Trail Act”, was introduced in the House May 27, 2022! Please contact your Senator in Congress to explain why YOU think the BMT should be designated 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 [senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) in your browser. In the top menu, select “Senators” and choose “Contact”

Use the dropdown in the center of the page to choose your state. Pictures of your two Senators will appear. Select “CONTACT” under the picture of the Senator you want to contact. For sending a letter, the Senator’s Washington DC mailing address will appear under the Senator’s picture.

Each Senator will have a different protocol to follow. The choices will vary by Senator — possible selections include “Email”, “Share Your Opinion”, “Share Your Views”, etc. Most will have a form for you to complete — fill in your name, address, phone, email address, etc.

Be sure to click the “*I’m not a robot*” option if 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”. Or choose “Environment”.

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 Senator. 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 address that appears under your Senator’s picture.