



**International Business Machines
Global Technology Services**
2810 LeMone Industrial Boulevard
Columbia, MO 65201

August 19, 2013

Mayor Bob McDavid / City Council Members,

IBM supports the building of the Grindstone Creek Trail from the Grindstone Nature area and, therefore, the Hinkson Creek Trail to McGuire Boulevard.

When IBM was considering Columbia as a location for our newest Delivery Center, the city's quality of life was an important factor for our ability to attract and retain employees. The existing and planned walking and bicycling trails impressed us as a key element of that quality of life.

The plan to build the trail to our facility was specifically discussed during our review and factored positively into our overall assessment.

IBM favors the trail for its environmental, transportation, health and recreational value to the community and our employees. The trail should provide a safe and pleasant route for our employees to commute to our facility by bicycle or foot; environmental benefits by reducing automobile trips and therefore fuel consumption and the emission of greenhouse gasses; and the very important preventative health benefits of active transportation.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with IBM's view on the new trail and encourage you to support the proposal.

Sincerely,

Jim Chapdelaine

Jim Chapdelaine
Director, IBM Columbia Delivery Center
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