

Date submitted (Central Standard Time): 9/12/2020 4:15:12 PM

First name: Joy

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Organization: Morehead-Rowan County Tourism Commission

Title: Executive Director

Comments:

I am writing in complete support of the infrastructure improvements submitted under the listing Kentucky-Daniel Boone-Cumberland-Cave Run Lake Pavement Resurface. Our community is comprised of a large percentage of the Daniel Boone National Forest. For that reason, we rely heavily on the impact the forest has on our local economy. Our tourism economy thrives on the outdoor recreation opportunities provided by the forest. From 2018 to 2019, our local economy was positively impacted by over \$800,000 in tourism growth for our county alone. That is something communities like ours need in tough years like 2020 but also to thrive in future years. It is very difficult to invite and promote our area when the infrastructure they see is deteriorating rapidly. We need asphalt improvements, improved ramps, improved ingress and egress accesses to our campground. With over 500,000 visitors annually to points of interests in the Morehead area of the Daniel Boone, visitors tend to stay longer and return when there are visible signs of improvement. These improvements are long overdue and I as well as our tourism commission worry, if infrastructure doesn't improve, visitors will stop returning to our picturesque community. Our agencies partnership with the Cumberland Ranger District is at an all time high which is just one of the reasons our local tourism economic impact is larger than it ever has been. We don't anticipate, other than 2020, that this stride of growth will decrease. However, we need your help in taking the necessary steps to improve. Thank you for your consideration and if my vocal opinion is needed, please let me know.