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To Whom It May Concern:

The Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce supports the Heartland Parkway project. This highway will have a tremendous economic, educational, and recreational impact on the entire region. It will help open up a section of the Commonwealth that heretofore has been struggling to attract businesses and tourists. With no north-south four lane highway between Interstates 65 and 75, those cities, towns, and counties in the middle of this geographic square are isolated from traffic that would bring much needed jobs and tourists through the area.

The Heartland Parkway would provide opportunities for cities and towns in this region to attract more business and industry. One of the most important considerations for any business considering locating in an area is access to good roads for trucks to carry goods to and from the plant or store and easy access for customers from a wide area. Cities and towns in this region have a qualified work force and they are willing to offer tax incentives for businesses and industries to locate there.

Second, the Heartland Parkway would help area cities and towns to attract more tourists. This region is steeped in history, but now they must to be a destination for tourists. Having a main highway run through the area with exit signs for historic sites will encourage travelers to take time to look around. When they stop they would spend money on food, gas, and possibly lodging which would boost the local economy. The Heartland Parkway would become the "Gateway to Kentucky's famous lakes."

Finally, the Heartland Parkway opens up educational opportunities for more Kentuckians. Three colleges and universities are located along this route – St. Catherine's College, Campbellsville University, and Lindsey Wilson College. Many college age students are willing to go away from home to further their education, but they want it to be convenient for them. The parkway would help these institutions attract more students from the three most populous areas in Kentucky. Also, non-traditional students from a wider area who want to pursue a degree would find it easier to commute to classes and be back home to their jobs or families more quickly.

The Heartland Parkway is important to the future development of this part of Kentucky. The Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce supports the continued efforts to make this parkway a reality. Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald E. Heath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Ronald E. Heath, President
Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce