



February 8, 2022

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Mr. Bryson Stephens
Chairman of Board of Directors
EBSCO Industries, Inc.
5724 Highway 280 East
Birmingham, AL 35242

RE: Red Mountain Cut Project in Birmingham, Alabama

Dear Bryson,

Freshwater Land Trust is extremely enthusiastic about your proposed Red Mountain Cut project in Birmingham, Alabama. As a nonprofit organization focused in part on pedestrian and bike-friendly trail development, we are pleased to offer our support for this exciting endeavor in our area.

As you know, Freshwater Land Trust is working to conserve, connect, and care for land and water in Central Alabama. As part of our mission, we serve as the facilitator of the Red Rock Trail System, a 750-mile vision of parks, trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks in Jefferson County. Our goal is to connect every resident to a greenspace within one mile of their home, emphasizing areas that promote connectivity and highlight the unique natural landscape of our region. The Red Mountain Cut, running along the Red Mountain Expressway, will create a highly visible, destination trail in the middle of the Greater Birmingham area bridging the gap between downtown Birmingham and numerous "over the mountain" communities.

The Red Mountain Cut will create a distinctive and impressive landmark, while also highlighting Red Mountain's unique natural geological features through a modern and accessible trail experience. In addition, thanks to collaborations with municipalities surrounding the project, the Red Mountain Cut is poised to create meaningful recreational and alternative transportation connections vital to creating a well-functioning and unified regional trail network.

The Red Mountain Cut is an exciting trail project that honors Red Mountain Expressway's past while serving future generations. Our organization is thrilled that you have chosen to take on this project, and we look forward to hearing more about your progress as you pursue ways to fulfill your vision.

Sincerely,

Tom Thagard
Chair of Board of Directors

Rusha Smith
Executive Director

