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Mr. Vern Hartenburg
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Dear Vern:

As you know from our previous meetings, the Cleveland Area Mountain Bike Association was created to spread the word that bicycling on trails is a fun, growing, and legitimate outdoor adventure experience that belongs here in Cleveland. We would like to provide you a quick update on our progress since our last meeting in August of 2002. We would also like to request another meeting with you and other appropriate representatives of the Cleveland Metroparks.

Since our past meeting, CAMBA has had many accomplishments, some highlights include:

- Increasing paid membership to almost 150 members.
- Submission of application for 501(c)(3) recognition by the Internal Revenue Service. This recognition will establish CAMBA as a non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable organization.
- Building approximately 5 miles of new trails at West Branch State Park and Quail Hollow State Park.
- Establishment of a National Mountain Bike Patrol chapter in Cleveland.
- Establishment of CAMBAKids, a CAMBA sponsored program which takes kids on group mountain bike rides with goal of promoting sustainable trail usage at an early age and combating obesity among children.
- Significant media attention including stories featured by The Plain Dealer, ActionNews-WOIO, and WCPN-90.3 FM.

CAMBA has spent the first few years of its existence building the foundation of the organization, raising awareness of sustainable trail usage among the mountain bike community, and gaining significant experience building trails in Northeast Ohio. We firmly believe that is now time for CAMBA to take its efforts to the next level. That next level includes working with the Cleveland Metroparks to identify existing trails or constructing new trails that are open for off-road cycling.

Off-road cycling is a legitimate and appropriate way for visitors to experience and enjoy the Cleveland Metroparks. It is a low-impact, human-powered activity that is suitable for certain areas and on certain trails. It is not distinctly different from hiking or horseback riding, which are two activities currently allowed in the Cleveland Metroparks. Off-road cycling is also a great form of exercise and helps combat the societal trend towards unhealthy lifestyles, including obesity.

At the same time, off-road cycling is environmentally sustainable and compatible with other user groups such as horsemen and hikers. Mountain bikes have a similar impact on trails as hikers and have significantly less impact on trails than horses. Trail damage and erosion typically stem from poorly designed or constructed trails.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, a united trails community that includes mountain bicyclists and other trail groups will be a powerful and effective voice for increased federal, state and local recreational trails funding and increased awareness of conservation issues among the general public.

● Page 2

Rather than restrict *who* may use the trails, CAMBA seeks to explore *how* and under what conditions various user groups, including bicyclists, may share trails. Therefore, we would like to continue our dialogue that began in 2002 and specifically discuss what policies and procedures used by the Cleveland Metroparks for establishing trail use designations. We will contact you next week to briefly discuss some of our ideas and set up a time when we can meet.

Sincerely,

Michael Farley
Founder & Advocacy Representative

William Braum
President