**[Your Name]**

**[Your Address]**

**[City, State, ZIP Code]**

**[Date]**

[Representative's Name]

[Pennsylvania House of Representatives]

[Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

**Appeal for Funding to Close D&L Lehigh Valley Trail Gap within the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor**

Dear Representative [Representative's Last Name],

[*Enter a personal statement including your Name, where you live, and why you care about this issue- Example: My name is Jane Doe and I live at 2750 Hugh Moore Park Road in Easton within your \_\_\_\_\_\_ legislative district. The D&L Trail is a critical resource in our community and my friends and family utilize it every day to exercise, socialize, and to run errands in Easton. I am writing you to highlight the urgent need to close the Lehigh Valley Trail Gap so we can achieve a connected trail system in the Valley.].*

The D&L Trail is the spine of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (DLNHC) and when complete will span 165+ miles from Bristol to Wilkes-Barre, making it the longest multiuse trail in Pennsylvania. The Lehigh Valley Gap surrounds the City of Allentown and is the most densly populated region within the DLNHC’s 5-County Corridor. This area also has some of the lowest health rankings and highest disability rates compared to the state average. If this gap remains unclosed, not only will the D&L Trail continue to have a major barrier at its center, but the region’s active transportation network that depends on the D&L Trail for connections will be unable to provide links to local resources.

Closing the Lehigh Valley Gap will provide a 14-mile loop on both sides of the Lehigh River promoting safe access to the natural resources along the waterway and nearby community hubs. It will also connect over 100 miles of continuous D&L Trail that trail users of all abilities can safely utilize for recreation and travel with the benefits of improved health and wellness, boosts to the local economy, and links to rich natural and historic resources that surround the Trail.

I urge you to please support *[reach out to DLNHC at* *info@delawareandlehigh.org* *for a list of top trail gap project needs, or insert a project need you are aware of].*

Thank you for considering my appeal. Your commitment to serving our community and your dedication to providing safe and accessible active transportation routes will not go unnoticed or go to waste.

With appreciation,

[*Your Name*]