

JAMIE REITENOUR GOVERNOR INDIANA GOODNESS



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Experience Small Town Hoosier Hospitality: Hop Aboard the Indiana Goodness Train

Several of my opponents in the race to become Indiana’s next governor have focused their proposals on large economic projects that benefit Indiana’s larger cities, but that unfortunately neglect our small, rural towns. Today, I want to put forward my vision of creating economic development that revitalizes our small towns and honors the history of Hoosier ingenuity that distinguishes our state.

Simply put, I propose the creation of what I am calling the ‘Indiana Goodness Train.’ The purpose of this is to increase tourism in Indiana by tying several tourist attractions together with small communities that are primed to grow. I am challenging the citizens of Indiana to explore this economic development concept as an alternative to the shortcomings of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, which is currently struggling to fulfill its mandate effectively. However, amidst these challenges, there lies an opportunity to harness creativity to stimulate Indiana's economy.

I am proposing that we explore the utilization of Indiana's existing rail infrastructure. I encourage you to take a moment to examine the extent of Indiana's rail network online. Consider the wealth of potential inherent in these railways: the possibility of revitalizing existing lines, reconstructing others, or even introducing new ones where necessary. My vision is to use this rail network as a conduit to connect our small communities—those with populations numbering under a thousand, or even under five hundred—many of which are facing the harsh reality of decline.

The Indiana Goodness Train would become a symbol of hope and rejuvenation for these overlooked towns. Picture it traversing the state, not just ferrying passengers, but also serving as a platform for local engagement and economic revitalization. From a coffee cart to a kitchenette where aspiring chefs from local institutions can showcase their talents, each stop along the way would offer a unique culinary experience. This train journey would be a culinary odyssey, with different towns contributing their flavors to the gastronomic tapestry.

The analogy to Kentucky's famous Bourbon Trail is apt: just as the Bourbon Trail celebrates Kentucky's heritage, the Indiana Goodness Train would celebrate the heart and soul of Indiana — its small towns and their people. By leveraging this initiative, we aim to achieve a significant impact with minimal government intervention. This embodies the essence of Indiana goodness — an unwavering belief in the resilience of our people and the potency of the private sector.

The Indiana Goodness Train is poised for success, as we've already cultivated strong relationships with three of the towns wishing to host the train. These partnerships demonstrate community support and will facilitate a smooth and successful implementation. We plan to use already-existing railroads as much as possible and run our trains on the weekends to avoid conflicts with industry using the rails, and share upkeep costs.

Imagine, if you will, the route starting at Attica (47918), progressing on to Wingate (47994) and then to Amo (46121). Nashville (47448) is the next stop, and then we move on to French Lick where there is a casino and waterpark. From there, we travel to Santa Claus where we have Holiday World, then we loop back to make a stop at Winslow.

The Indiana Goodness Train is dedicated to expanding tourism in Indiana by connecting various attractions with several charming communities from Wingate to Winslow.

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Jamie Reitenour is a Republican candidate for Indiana governor. She is a former collegiate athlete, a corporate veteran, ministry-leader, wife, and homeschool mom of five. With no history in government or politics, she runs on a practical slate of conservative values including smaller government, educational excellence, faith, family, and community that appeals to the everyday Hoosier and challenges the trend of establishment Republican leadership.