

June 18, 2021

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Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 21, 2021
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket No. AB167 (Sub.no. 1189X), *Conrail – Abandonment Exemption – in Hudson County, NJ* and related CSX and NS dockets AB290 (Sub-no. 686X) and AB290 (Sub-no. 306X)

Dear Ms. Brown:

I'm writing to express my concern over the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch by Consolidated Railroad (Conrail), and discontinuances by CSX Transportation (CSX) and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS), in the proceedings above.

The sale of the Harsimus Branch Embankment, which runs between two National Historic Districts, has made this historic resource vulnerable to demolition and redevelopment. The Embankment is a treasure to Jersey City residents, a piece of history that our community hopes to preserve as a park rivaling NYC's Highline.

Why would a rail company claim that a main freight line into New York Harbor was an unregulated "spur," internally reclassify it, and sell it for private development? Only to avoid the review of historic resources mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106. Section 110(k) of the NHPA provides sanctions for "anticipatory demolition" such as this sale.

I sincerely hope you won't issue an abandonment permit – until the sale is reversed and the property is made available to Jersey City for preservation.

Sincerely,



Karin Williams

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I certify that I have this day served or caused to serve a copy on all Parties of Record in this proceeding by eservice or first-class mail.



Signature

06/18/21

Date