

From: Nancy Ihara <nancyihara@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:36 PM
To: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>
Subject: AB 1305 X Railbanking

EI-31293

To: Surface Transportation Board
Re: AB 1305 X Railbanking

There is tremendous support for the Great Redwood Trail. I request that the Surface Transportation Board work diligently to complete the railbanking process that will allow this trail to happen. It is my understanding that it is not necessary to wait to confirm the legal status of the two ends of the existing rail line to do this.

The proposal to use the existing rail line to transport coal is not feasible. The Eel River Canyon is not stable and will not support coal trains. The Eel River is already compromised by deforestation that has occurred in the past and is threatened by on-going drought conditions. The possibility of a coal train accident along this route is frightening. The proposal is also a huge mistake in light of climate change. We need to be transitioning away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy.

Nancy R. Ihara