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Subject: Comments on Proposed Abandonment of Harsimus Branch Rail Line (Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No.1189X)), the Embankment
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Thank you for convening the September 28, 2023 public participation session on Conrail's request to abandon the subject rail line, known as the Embankment, and for the opportunity to submit comments on same.

In 2005, Conrail violated federal procedures and regulations by selling the Embankment to a private developer. Since that time, Conrail and the developer have resisted all attempts to rectify this illegal sale.

As a resident of one of the historic districts abutting the Embankment, I strongly oppose Conrail's attempts to subvert federal regulations and to shirk its responsibility to the public, a position universally shared by my fellow residents, as you are aware from the September 28 session.

As the former Deputy Director of Environmental Planning and Protection (retired) for the US Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 office, I am familiar with federal process and regulations, and I am appalled that Conrail has not been held to account for this illegal sale of federal property.

Federal regulations are there to safeguard the public interest and insure the proper conduct of federal transactions, including the disposition of federal property.

Due process requires that Conrail's illegal sale of the Embankment and its circumvention of federal regulations be overturned. Conrail must be required to follow the federal procedures and regulations laid out for this purpose. The Surface Transportation Board is the responsible federal agency in this matter, and must act to interdict Conrail's illegal actions and to protect the public interest. To do otherwise would be a contravention of the public trust and would only invite further litigation and delay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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Sent from my iPad