

From: [Galina Espinoza](#)
To: [Tabachnick, Alan](#)
Subject: Comment on AB-167 (Sub.no. 1189X), Harsimus Branch
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023 8:37:23 AM

Mr. Tabachnik --

I am a Jersey City property owner whose historic rowhouse is on Erie Street between 6th and 7th, steps away from the Embankment.

I cannot overstate the level of local support for preservation of the Embankment. The benefits of preservation are so clear that it almost seems silly to have to advocate for them, but given the resistance Conrail continues to put up, I'm writing to add my voice to the mix. The Embankment's natural beauty alone is worth saving, but that beauty also plays a powerful role in flood mitigation, by absorbing a good deal of the increasingly astonishing levels of rainfall we endure.

It also has the potential to provide a world-class park experience in an urban landscape that could definitely use some more greenspace; as I'm sure you're aware, greenspace has nothing but positive impacts on community health and connection. (Just watch the Netflix series about blue zones!)

The Embankment is a central element of the neighborhood I've chosen to lay down roots in, and it's amazing to me that folks from the outside could so callously disregard what the residents themselves declare to be vital to the area in which they live. Tearing down the Embankment would result in years of noise and dirt and pollution; surely, whatever vision there is for replacing it -- if there even is one -- would only add to the density of a small, historic neighborhood, straining resources.

This is a real inflection point in Jersey City. There is a chance here to build a resilient, thriving, wondrous space for the future — and that kind of chance doesn't come along very often. Please think about what will still stand a generation from now, and do what needs to be done to preserve the Embankment.

Thank you for listening.
Galina

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