

From: Beatriz Bofill <beatriz@bikejc.org>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Tabachnick, Alan <alan.tabachnick@stb.gov>
Subject: Harsimus Branch Abandonment (Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X))

I would like to submit the following comments on the above referenced matter.

The Surface Transportation Board Office of Environmental Analysis must not reward rail companies by turning a blind eye to unlawful sales of regulated railroads. Conrail must be held accountable for its unlawful sale. Please engage consulting parties and the public in considering ways to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse effects to historic resources. Do use Section 106 of which my organization Bike JC is a consulting party, to consider Master Plans, Redevelopment Plans, development issues, and the STB's own powers to mitigate adverse effects. It is an imperative that STB facilitate efforts to protect a historic industrial infrastructure critical to 21st-century public needs. Today each environmental decision is more important as global warming looms larger, resources become more scarce, and the goal to create a more humane world becomes ever more important. Recognize that STB will actively contribute to resource destruction if it permits abandonment without preservation conditions. Think of the amazing legacy you have an opportunity to leave for the betterment of so many.

Best,
Beatriz Bofill
Bike JC