

National Association of Reversionary Property Owners (NARPO)

1100 Bellevue Way NE Ste.8A PMB 719

Bellevue, WA 98004

dick156@earthlink.net

760-238-8420

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STB

Chief Secretary of Administration

Office of Proceedings

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Office of Chief Counsel

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Part of

Public Record

STB Docket No. AB 1296X

**R.L. Corman Railroad Property LLC--Abandonment Exemption--
In Scott, Campbell, and Anderson Counties, Tenn.**

Comment on AB 1296X Request for NITU Extension

On February 20, 2020, R. J. Corman Railroad Properties LLC (RJC), filed a verified notice of exemption to abandon a 41.05 mile rail line in Tenn. A NITU was issued on April 17, 2020 to Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) for AB 1296X.

Allegedly during the past 6 years TWCP and RJC have been in negotiations for a Trail use Agreement. The STB in their April 10, 2025 Decision on AB1296X spelled out all the alleged details of prior negotiations for the Trail Use Agreement. Obviously nothing has come to pass in 6 years. For the past 13 months a new NITU sponsor, The Trust for Public Land (TPL), has been mixed into the negotiations at the last minute before the 4 year maximum NITU negotiation period is expiring, See EP 749 (Sub-No 1) and 49 CFR 1152.29(d)(1).

The National Association of Reversionary Property Owners (NARPO) opposes any further NITU extension of the NITU negotiation period after April 16, 2026. No extraordinary reasons have been shown by either TCWP, RJC or TPL. The world nor the United States did not come to a standstill during the two years of the COVID issue. The economy kept moving along, people were still talking, the railroads were still moving goods, contracts were still being negotiated and the STB was still open for business. The problem seems to be TWCP did not have any support from the local communities, and they still don't have local support because the hundreds of abutting property owners do not want a trail through or alongside their properties.

NARPO does not think the excuses put forth by TWCP and TPL are sufficient to be considered extraordinary reasons for consideration of the restrictions in 49 CFR 1152.29 (d)(1)

on trail use negotiation extensions beyond 4 years. All of the TCWP and TPL excuses were their own doing mainly because of no local support and no financing both of which should have been accomplished during the past six years.

The Parties of Record to AB 1296X have been served with email on 3/11/2026.

Richard Welsh–NARPO
dick156@earthlink.net