



Bergen Arches Preservation Coalition

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Office of Proceedings

June 21, 2021

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Ms. Cynthia Brown

June 18, 2021

Chief, Section of Administration

Office of Proceedings

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Docket No. AB167 (Sub.no. 1189X), *Conrail – Abandonment Exemption – in Hudson*

***County, NJ* and related CSX and NS dockets AB290 (Sub-no. 686X) and AB290 (Sub-no. 306X)**

Dear Ms. Brown:

The mission of the Bergen Arches Preservation Coalition is to preserve the Bergen Arches, the old cut through the Palisades of the Erie Railroad, for reuse as part of a regional trail system. The intention is to bring the East Coast Greenway (ECG) off-road through our county. The ECG route recommended in 2004 by a New Jersey Department-of-Transportation-funded study is over the Harsimus Branch and through the Arches. This route was recently re-examined by a study group and confirmed as the way to get through our densely built-out city. Rights of way (ROWs) on this route are not only historic in themselves but also link multiple Districts and

sites on or eligible for the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Loss of the Harsimus Branch ROW would be a loss not only in itself but to the historic fabric of this area.

If the Surface Transportation Board were to issue an abandonment license to Conrail without stringent preservation conditions, it would itself be creating an adverse effect to historic resources. We ask the board to find that the National Historic Preservation Act Section 110(k) applies to the Branch. Your board should not allow abandonment to proceed until Conrail remedies its unlawful conduct, which constitutes anticipatory demolition, as already extensively put into evidence by City et al. in the above cases and in FD_34818.

We consent to email service in these proceedings.

Sincerely,

Rahid Cornejo, Director

Bergen Arches Preservation Coalition

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(address)

I certify that today I am serving copies of this document upon parties of record in this proceeding, listed below, by electronic mail.



Signature

June 18, 2021

Date

See next page for copies.

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