

Docket #: EP-749-1

Subject: Railbanking

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Office of Proceedings
October 31, 2018
Part of
Public Record

am opposed to the restrictions to railbanking negotiations proposed by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) (Docket ID: EP-749-1). Railbanking can be a long process. Negotiations can take years to complete and many successful negotiations have taken longer than the maximum time period now proposed by the STB. Placing arbitrary restrictions on these negotiations will only impede local groups from preserving rail corridors and creating rail-trails that boost local economies and create healthier, more vibrant communities.

Here in the Northeast all open lands are fought over. Rail corridors are a vital resource and can be, in a weather or terror crisis, a vital lifeline for first responders. In other times, they can provide the balanced transportation choices that reduce road congestion and concomitant high-cost land acquisition and construction. Protect this resource.