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Rail Banking Time

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The Surface Transportation Board's October 1, 2018 proposed decision to limit extensions of trail use negotiating periods should not be approved. I am a member of the Board of Directors Treeline Trail Conservancy located in Ann Arbor Michigan. I and others have been working for more than ten years to create and implement the Treeline Trail, a 2.75 mile walking and biking trail connecting the Washtenaw County's Border to Border Trail currently under construction with the heart of Ann Arbor including the following: three city properties that will become green parks, a ADA compliant 30' wide corridor that is off streets (where feasible) will be provided for bicyclists, runners, walkers, and the handicapped. The Treeline Trail will proceed south from the Washtenaw County Border to Border Trail Connection to connect to three potential green parks. These properties are currently owned by the City of Ann Arbor. It is envisioned that the Trail will be constructed in four phases proceeding from the north to the downtown area and continuing south to reach the area of University of Michigan athletic facilities including the Michigan Stadium where the crowds are at or over 110,000 fans. The presence of the Treeline Trail would reduce the vast number of people who currently break the law by walking on the Watco RR tracks from the downtown area to the Stadium. In addition to football games, varsity Basketball and other sporting events bring large numbers of people on the RR tracks to/from athletic events. There is a turntable that was used to turn locomotives around that is in need of repair and restoration on property owned by the Watco RR. This same Watco RR property has open spaces west of the existing operating N/S track.

These open spaces could become green spaces for picnics and relaxation.

At least 80% of this trail corridor is above the Allen Creek Drain-a massive pipe that conveys normal flow and storm water flow from the Allen Creek drainage area. As a result of excessive surface flow of storm water along the route of the Allen Creek Drain, this Drain is surcharged (flows at capacity) and resultant flooding of storm water occurs at the ground surface route of the Allen Creek Drain along the Treeline Trail until the storm water discharges into the

Huron River. This storm water flooding limits the use of the property above and along side of the Allen Creek Drain. The Treeline Trail will be designed and built to withstand storm water flooding. The Treeline Conservancy's Trail has taken more than ten (10) years to reach the present condition where a Master Plan has been produced and approved unanimously by the Ann Arbor City Council. It is estimate that it will take us at least eight (8) years to complete this trail. In addition, we recognize that the discussions that need to take place between the

Watco RR and the Treeline Trail Conservancy will require extensive effort and discussion to determine whether or not the parties can achieve agreement on the Rail Banking issues.