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Friends of
Glacial
Heritage
Area



April 11, 2019

RE: Docket EP 753 – Petition for Rulemaking

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Ms. Brown:

These comments, filed on behalf of Friends of Glacial Heritage Area are in support of a petition by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) for the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to establish a one-year period for any initial interim trail use negotiating period and codify the STB's authority to grant extensions of the negotiating period for good cause shown.

While we have no personal experience, we have trails in our area that have been developed through former rails and we wish to support those groups in their work and thank them for the very popular outcomes of that work. Railbanking has allowed us to increase opportunities for people to ride their bikes to work safely and to enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation by biking. We have been able to increase the miles of available biking/hiking trails in our county and connect urban areas with rural areas. We support this request that will make the process of transforming rails to trails more timely, efficient and easier.

We urge the Board to adopt RTC's proposed rule in Docket No. EP 753.

Thank you for your consideration,

Frankie Fuller, President
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