



LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Wisconsin State Capitol
Room 5, PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53703
sen.lena.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov

November 1, 2018

RE: Docket EP-749-1 – Proposed Rulemaking to Limit NITU's to a Maximum of Six (6) 180-Day Extensions

246645

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 31, 2018
Part of
Public Record

Dear Ms. Brown,

I am writing you today on behalf of the thousands of constituents I represent in the Wisconsin's 4th Senate, District. I am in opposition to a proposed rule by the Surface Transportation Board to require that the number of extensions of the trail use negotiation period not exceed six, or essentially three years.

As we have started dialogue in Wisconsin amongst legislators and partners of rails and trails, we know the positive impact that has occurred in other communities across the country when ongoing dialogue and negotiations have been able to occur without time constraints as it is being proposed. Wisconsin is in the process of starting a Wisconsin Rails & Trails Caucus within our legislative body, we are looking to expand our rails and trails. In the past the purpose of railbanking is to preserve our country's railroad corridors and allow for interim trail use. Railbanking has transformed thousands of communities across the country by providing safe public spaces for recreation and transportation. We are interested to replicating those positive models in Wisconsin.

I am requesting that the Surface Transportation Board change related to railbanking negotiations, would be to change the initial railbanking/interim trail negotiating period to establish a one-year period (instead of 180 days) for any initial and subsequent negotiating periods. This compromise would serve all parties in a fair and equitable manner. If you have any questions please contact me, thank you.

In Service,

Wisconsin's 4th Senate District

LCT/emc