



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

July 1, 2019

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Ms. Allison C. Davis
Acting Director
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 8, 2019
Part of
Public Record



Subject: Docket No. EP 753 - Rails-to-Trails Conservancy - Petition for Rulemaking;
Docket No. EP 749 (Sub-No.1) - Limiting Extensions of Trail Use Negotiating
Periods

Dear Ms. Davis:

These comments, filed on behalf of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), fully support the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's (RTC) petition to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to establish a one-year period for any initial interim trail use negotiating period; and the STB's proposal to modify its regulations to establish said one-year period for any initial interim trail use negotiating period, instead of the existing 180-day initial negotiating period; and to permit up to three one-year extensions of the initial period if the trail sponsor and the railroad agree; and to permit additional one-year extensions if the trail sponsor and the railroad agree and good cause is shown.

We urge the Surface Transportation Board to adopt the modifications as proposed in the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking [Docket No. EP 749 (Sub-No.1); Docket No. EP 753], published in the Federal Register / Vol. 84, No. 109 / Thursday, June 6, 2019 / Proposed Rules, page 26387.

Sincerely,

Matt Lincoln, Land Liaison
Parks and Recreation Division
517-284-6111

cc: Mr. Mark Hoffman, Chief Administration Officer, DNR
Ms. Shannon Hanna, Natural Resources Deputy, DNR
Mr. Trevor VanDyke, Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office, DNR
Mr. Paul Yauk, State Trails Coordinator, DNR
Mr. Roger Storm, Real Estate Services, DNR