

From: Bvri <bvri@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 9:44 AM
To: ncarter620@aol.com; Laws-Byrum, Rena; pdenton@steptoe.com; Christopher_Albert@reed.senate.gov; kfayan@gmail.com
Subject: Surface Transportation Board, Public Comment, Case FD 36326.
Brookfield Asset Management Inc. from Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Inc. #1

Surface Transportation Board

To whom it may concern:

As President of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Inc. I certify that I have this day served copies of document upon all parties of record in this proceeding, by E-mail.

Signature

Date July 31, 2019

248270



ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 31, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Docket #: FD -36326 --

Subject: * Public Comment
First Name: * Robert
Middle Name: Dennis
Last Name: * Billington
Address: * 175 Main Street

City: * Pawtucket
State: * RHODE ISLAND
Zip Code: * 02860-02860
Email Address: * bvri@bu.edu
Group/Affiliation: Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Inc
Message: Comment 1.

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. The Council has the responsibility to develop the economy through tourism in nine Blackstone Valley communities in Rhode Island. The Blackstone Valley is where the American Industrial Revolution took place and we are the birthplace of economic freedom in our nation.

We are in a post-industrial era in the Blackstone Valley. We are working hard to improve the economy in which we live.

We are eager to protect the developmental vision of the Blackstone Valley between Worcester Massachusetts and Providence Rhode Island to improve the lives of the residents of our communities. One way this vision is achieved is through the development of our Blackstone Valley Bikeway, that parallels the rails of the Providence and Worcester Railroad; the protection of the

Blackstone River; and the Blackstone Canal. The Council has worked with Providence and Worcester Railroad for 35 years.

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council's most important fund-raising event to support the Blackstone Valley is the operation of The Polar Express Train Ride, which takes place between Woonsocket RI and Uxbridge MA. This one event brings 22,000 people to the Blackstone Valley, a part of New England that vitally needs economic improvement. We seek to have good communications with the new owners of these rails. We also want to expand our work to include more excursions throughout the year, along the railroad between Providence and Worcester. We request that the new owners take into consideration the economic needs of the Blackstone Valley, our interest in preserving history and the protection of our environment. We seek a strong communication link with the new ownership to insure collaboration and cooperation.