

Docket #: EP 749 Sub No. 1

Michael Eng
64705 Lostine River RD
Lostine, Oregon 97857
mikeeng@mac.com

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I oppose NARPO's proposal to arbitrarily limit the number of extensions allowed for trail use negotiations. I have seen first-hand how these negotiations can be delayed and extended by local opponents, local land use reviews~ and foot-dragging local officials aligned with opponents even when there is very strong overall local support for the use of an abandoned rail line right-of-way for recreational trail use

It can often take a long time to work through the local politics to ensure that the majority will of local voters can prevail. This arbitrary limit on the time for negotiations will enable and empower a very few local opponents to delay the successful conclusions of negotiations long enough to kill a promising proposal supported by a large majority of voters. I urge you to deny this petition by NARPO, and allow local trail sponsors the time that is necessary to address local concerns and overcome the opposition of a few vocal opponents, to successfully reach an agreement supported by the community and acceptable by the Board.