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Please do NOT amend the rules to limit the extensions for railbanking to six 180-day extensions. My family uses rail trails extensively for recreation, health, and commuting to work. I routinely cross unused rail lines that could be added to the network of trails, and are probably being considered for just such a purpose. I've lived in many states and have witnessed the challenges of lengthy negotiations over railway right-of-ways. Often these negotiations take five years or more because of the multiple entities that need to align, legal processes that need to be worked through, and funds that need to be raised.

Rail trails are an essential ingredient to healthy, vibrant communities across the country, and to the economies of many small towns that depend on bicycle recreation. Increasingly, they are a part of our transportation network as people look to alternative to automobiles. Please do NOT burden their development with crippling time frames.