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RE: Ex Parte 753 – Petition for Rulemaking

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



Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is in support of the petition by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) for the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to establish a one-year period for any initial interim trail use negotiating period and to codify the STB's authority to grant extensions of the negotiating period for good cause shown.

I am a Board member of RTC and was previously President and Chief Operating Officer of Genesee & Wyoming Inc. Before that, I was a senior officer of Conrail with responsibility for line abandonments and real estate transactions. As such, I have had experience on both sides of trail use negotiations and know that a one-year period for initial negotiation is appropriate. Given the public interest in right-of-way preservation reflected by the Trails Act, formalization of the negotiating process as specified in the RTC petition would support both the public interest and administrative efficiency.

Please grant the RTC petition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Charles N. Marshall", with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.