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Office of Proceedings
July 8, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
RE: Docket No. EP 749 (Sub-No. 1)

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the attached spreadsheet containing more than 4,000 comments by individual Rails-to-Trails Conservancy supporters urging the Surface Transportation Board to strengthen and improve the proposed rule changes for railbanking negotiations.

Many of these comments are based on the following text, but some have personalized their comments:

As a supporter of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, I support the Surface Transportation Board's proposal, with one small change, to improve the railbanking process by giving negotiators more time to reach an agreement (Docket Number: EP 749, Sub-No. 1).

Railbanking can be a long and complex process, and many successful negotiations have taken years to complete.

Please modify the current proposal by removing "not favored" status for additional extensions to the negotiating period beyond the four-year limit. Placing such a vague and arbitrary restriction on these negotiations will only impede local groups from preserving rail corridors and creating rail-trails that boost local economies and create healthier, more vibrant communities.

Thank you for accepting these comments as part of the public record for the supplementary notice of proposed rulemaking under Docket No. EP 749 [Sub-No. 1].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eli Griffen".

Eli Griffen
Manager of Trail Development Resources
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy