

EP 749

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I wish to express my opposition to the proposed rule change on docket EP-749-1. Railbanking has transformed communities and local economies, given millions of people the opportunity to improve their health and to make safe, pollution-free journeys. As many opponents of early rail trails (such as the Burke-Gilman in Seattle) discovered, a rail trail quickly becomes a huge asset to the families and real estate values of adjacent landowners. Many people who initially resist railbanking come to love their rail trail.

This proposed rule change appears to be an ideological effort to undermine the role of legislation and regulation in pursuing positive social outcomes. Of course landowners have rights and need due process, but to provide rail trail opponents with this opportunity to obstruct and in many cases prevent the establishment of rails trails would be to deprive everyone of the benefits of railbanking.

Please reject the "slash and burn" proposed rule change that is docket EP-749-1.

Thank you.