

# NATIONAL COAST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 2491, Eugene, OR 97402 / 503-335-3876 / [www.CoastTrails.org](http://www.CoastTrails.org)

*Keeping The Coast For Everyone!*  
*through advocacy, education and action*  
*for recreational trails, public access and coastal preservation*

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**Surface Transportation Board**  
395 E St., SW, Washington, DC 20423

**RE: Comments for Docket No. EP 749 (Sub-No. 1)**

**Hello:**

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) initiated a notice of proposed rulemaking to consider a rule proposed by opponents to railbanking that would significantly limit the ability of trail proponents to preserve rail corridors for interim trail use.

The proposed rule would restrict railbanking negotiations to six 180-day extensions—essentially three years—except under “extraordinary circumstances.” Many rail-trail managers know that negotiations can unfortunately persist beyond that time, whether for regulatory, funding or other legitimate reasons. *(Image, CapeCod.com)*



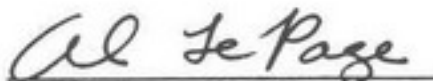
In their announcement of the rulemaking proceeding, the STB rejected proposals to eliminate the fee waiver for public entities filing for railbanking and to enact burdensome notification requirements on trail advocates and railroads.

We are in agreement with the STB **in rejecting these proposals**, since the apparent intent behind them, and the rule to be considered seems clear: Opponents want to make railbanking as difficult as possible to impede the preservation of rail corridors and development of rail-trails.

**Therefore, our comments here reflect our opposition to the proposed rule.**

Thank you for your reasoned consideration of our comments in light of **the need for outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, their economic benefits through local tourism, and especially in terms of the well-documented health benefits of physical exercise for people of all ages.**

Respectfully,



Al LePage, Executive Director  
cc: Board of Directors, *National Coast Trail Association*