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Office of Proceedings
October 31, 2018
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Public Record



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Dear STB Commissioners,

As an avid hiker, naturalist and artist I value all of your efforts to support rail easement properties conversion for recreational uses. Your recent proposal to limit negotiation to only three years (Docket #EP_749_1) stands to hamper rather than expedite this kind of long term projects throughout the country.

Preferably a ten-year limit on trail agreement negotiations would allow all the complex layers of agreement and financing that are often part of rail-to-trail agreements to be completed, while still providing parties a real deadline to force final action.

As an advocate for northern California's Great Redwood Trail, I am excited by the opportunities railbanking the old Northwestern Pacific rail line offers our region for non-motorized transportation, recreation, and tourism. While I too would like to see the transition happen quickly, I also understand that such projects require careful planning to succeed, and I do not want an arbitrary timeline hampering our ability to successfully implement railbanking and trail development.

with best regards,

Michael Guerriero