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EP-753

Rail Banking - Support of Rails to Trails proposed Rule

Eberhard Veit

3502 S. Kilkenny Dr. Crystal Lake IL 60014

eberhard.veil@eisenmann.com

McHenry County Bicycle Advocates Mar. 28, 2019

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We the McHenry County Bicycle Advocates are in
Support of a petition by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

RE: Docket EP 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,

These comments, filed on behalf of the McHenry County Bicycle Advocates,
are in support of a 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 codify the STB's authority
to grant extensions of the negotiating period for good cause shown.

We live right next to one of the first, if not the first rail trail.

The Prairie Trail in McHenry County and its extension to the south is a very
valuable artery for non-motorized transportation and recreation and is
heavily used. In fact, I am using parts of it daily on my commute to work.
One Saturday in August McHenry County DOT and Conservation district
counted 900 crossing on the bridge across Rakow Road in Crystal Lake, IL.

As you know negotiations for railbanking can be lengthy and time consuming

and it seems reasonable to extend the possible negotiation period to at least 1 year.

Based on our direct experience with railbanking negotiations before the STB, we urge the Board to adopt RTC's proposed rule in Docket No. EP 753.

Thank you for your consideration,

Regards, Eberhard Veit

President of the McHenry County Bicycle Advocates
and year round bicycle commuter.