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Alabama

Trails Commission

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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 Alabama Trails Commission, 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 feel strongly that RTC's proposed rule change will strengthen the ability of local trail proponents to achieve the federal railbanking program's goals as set forth by Congress in 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d).

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.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Rauworth
Chair