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Valley Lea Riding Club, Drumore, Lancaster County, PA
Barbara Long, Secretary
325 Rudy Road
York, PA 17406
(717) 252-4937

November 29, 2003

Case Control Unit
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ATTN: Troy Brady
Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No.1095X)

Dear Mr. Brady:

- The low-grade line was the biggest earth-moving project since the Panama Canal, and was built mostly by hand labor. Several lives were lost when they were blasting rock. To let this achievement be abandoned, would be trivializing their labor and lives. It would be a fitting memorial to preserve and share this important piece of history.
- It can never be replaced. If it is sold to the townships, who may not act in unison, we would never be able to recreate it.
- There have been serious efforts, including grants from numerous sources, to establish a linear park. At that point in time, the adjacent landowners were fearful of the impact, but since then they seem to have learned that a linear park would be the best and safest use of this land, and avoid its informal use as a trash dump.
- Horseback riders, along with hikers and bikers, are seeking safe places to enjoy the outdoors in their various ways. The linear park would meet this need perfectly.
- Horseback riders especially have been pushed (recently) out of the state game lands. They are an important economic stimulus to this rural area, as owners of farm supply stores, tack shops, and hay farmers will attest.
- The recently formed Susquehanna Heritage group is looking for ways to emphasize the unique aspects of this area, both recreationally and historically, and a rail-trail would be a major asset to their effort and this region.
- Because of the number of decades since the line was created, it nestles into the landscape in a very natural way, that again, would be impossible to replicate without spending millions of dollars.



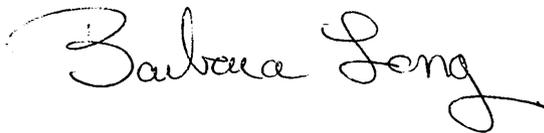
- Banking the land for potential future use as a railroad is a smart thing to do. Using it as a rail-trail for the foreseeable future is a wise thing to do.

On a personal note, as someone who has ridden on the York County, PA, Rail to Trail; I find it to be a beautiful and safe place for all to enjoy their hiking, biking and horseback riding sports.

Valley Lea Riding Club is a horseback riding club of approximately 550 members and has been in existence since the 1950's. We currently work with the local landowners and The Lancaster Conservancy with maintaining trails to meet environmental and safety concerns and needs. We are excited and supportive about the possibility of this new Rail to Trail being opened for public use and enjoyment. We would be willing to get involved with this project.

Thank you for considering this Rail to Trail project. It would be appreciated by many using trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Long". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Barbara Long, Secretary
Valley Lea Riding Club, Drumore, Lancaster County, PA