

Angela Foster

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**From:** John Jenkins  
**Sent:** 27 May 2018 10:24  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT; TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Rother Valley Railway

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to express my **SUPPORT** for the Rother Valley Railway project to re-connect Robertsbridge and Bodiam.

Having this re-connection to a National Rail station will in my view provide a valuable boost to the utility of the steam railway, with consequent tourism economic benefits to East Sussex and Kent. I believe that the experience of other heritage railways in the South East being re-connected to National Rail (such as with the Bluebell Railway extension to East Grinstead and the Spa Valley Railway extension to Eridge) support this contention. I believe that, in particular, the re-connection with National Rail services from London will allow less well-off people from London (and elsewhere) to be able to access the Kent countryside entirely by train. Further, the re-connection will encourage those who might otherwise travel by car to make the journey and experience the Kent countryside and Bodiam Castle entirely by train.

It is also I believe worthy of note that the increasing number of these railway re-connections of previously closed lines (whether heritage railway or National Rail) is bound to have a multiplier effect in relation to sustainable transport inter-connectedness. The project in question is a worthy one for this additional reason.

I would thus urge you to give the necessary approvals.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

John Jenkins

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