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Secretary of State for Transport,  
c/o Transport & Works Act Orders Unit,  
General Counsel's Office,  
Department for Transport,  
Zone 1/18, Great Minster House,  
33, Horseferry Road,  
London. SW1P 4DR

26<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

Dear Sir,

**The Transport and Works Act 1992  
RVR (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order.**  
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**I wish to support the Application by Rother Valley Railway Ltd for a TWA Order.**

Living miles from Robertsbridge, I believe that the full restoration of the railway from this small town to Tenterden in Kent will be of immense economic benefit to rural East Sussex.

The monetary value of the effort already invested in this project, both by Network Rail through the installation of a connection to the main line and by volunteer labour is considerable and has been achieved without any cost to the local taxpayer.

It is difficult to understand the motives of the principal objectors; this railway line had daily services until the mid-1960s. Their properties will continue to be connected as they were previously and generous compensation has been offered for the linear strips of land that would be returned to railway use.

I believe the campaign against this project is largely based upon falsehoods and misrepresentation of the facts. I appreciate that car parking is a real issue, but East Grinstead provides pertinent examples of how to overcome a potential problem to the overall benefit of the local community following the extension of another heritage railway.

The restoration of railways is only one aspect of preserving our national heritage and to describe this project as "playing trains" is unnecessarily disparaging. The Local Authorities in this area correctly identify the wider benefits of the scheme and it would be a travesty if all the hard work over many years by many people, entirely voluntarily, was wasted.

Yours faithfully,

Richard M. Childs.

