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2018-05-29

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order application**

I write on behalf of Railfuture in general support of the proposal in this application.

Railfuture is the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better services for passengers and freight on a bigger rail network. A voluntary organisation to which many rail user groups are affiliated, it is independent both politically and commercially.

We are particularly mindful of the evidence of the benefits of heritage railways to their local economies. The Heritage Railway Association <https://www.hra.uk.com/> published a report <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59f1c5ec51a58457c01eaed0/t/5a981e4df9619ac0c9af0d07/1519918675675/Value-of-heritage-rail.pdf> by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Heritage Rail <https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/apg/> on *The Social and Economic Value of Heritage Railways* in July 2013.

We believe that the full potential value of the Kent and East Sussex Railway will come to be realised when it is connected to the Rother Valley Railway and has an interchange with the mainline rail network at Robertsbridge, thereby enabling more sustainable access.

Yours faithfully

Roger Blake BA MRTPI (Rtd) MTPS  
Railfuture  
Director for Infrastructure & Networks  
Vice-Chair, London & South East regional branch

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