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Memo

To: Senate Transportation Committee
From: Michele Boomhower, Director
Cc: Dan Delabruere, Rail & Aviation Bureau Director
Date: March 19, 2024
Re: Lease Renewal for the Washington County Railroad

In 1980, the State of Vermont acquired the former Montpelier & Barre Railroad between Montpelier Junction and Graniteville. (See Act No. 188 of 1980 (1979 Adj. Sess.) The line runs through Berlin, Montpelier, Barre City, and Barre Town.

The existing September 30, 1999 Operating Agreement between the State and the Washington County Railroad Company (an affiliate of the Vermont Rail System) is due to expire on June 30, 2024, with no further renewal options available under the existing agreement.

The proposed language authorizes (see 5 V.S.A. § 3405) the Secretary of Transportation to enter into an amendment to add options for three additional renewal terms of 10 years each, for a total of 30 additional years, as well as language modernizing and clarifying certain provisions of the existing agreement.

* * * State-Owned Railroads * * *

Sec. xx. WASHINGTON COUNTY RAILROAD; AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AMENDMENT FOR EXTENSION OF OPERATING AGREEMENT

The Secretary, as agent for the State, is authorized to enter into an amendment to the existing September 30, 1999 Operating Agreement with the Washington County Railroad Company to add options for three additional renewal terms of 10 years each, for a total of 30 additional years, as well as language updating and clarifying certain provisions of the existing agreement.