

GRETCHEN LEA

I N T E R I O R D E S I G N



138 South Grims Mill Road
Boyertown, Pennsylvania
19512-8549

Telephone 610-367-6773
Fax 610-367-8257

Email Gretchen@GLEaInteriorDesign.com
Web GLEaInteriorDesign.com

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I pledge my support to the creation of a dedicated tourist railroad on the Colebrookdale Railroad for the benefit and enjoyment of citizens, visitors, students, and the business communities of our region. We support the efforts of the project proponents to secure funding to facilitate tourist passenger service and will, in the future, aid in efforts to that end to the extent determined by our governing board to be necessary and prudent.

This letter is in reference to the Colebrookdale Railroad, a rail line extending a distance of 8.6 miles from milepost 0.0 at Pottstown, Pennsylvania, to milepost 8.6 at Boyertown, Pennsylvania, dates from the mid-nineteenth century and is an under-utilized historic resource;

The Colebrookdale Railroad's history and construction reflects the culture and heritage of Pottstown, Boyertown, and Southeastern Pennsylvania. The Railroad possesses natural and architectural beauty unsurpassed by any railroad in the northeastern United States.

I strongly believe that the re-use of the Colebrookdale Railroad as a passenger operation will catalyze heritage and recreational tourism activity and other development in Pottstown and Boyertown and will take advantage of a tourism opportunity gap and that the passenger operation of the Colebrookdale Railroad will create jobs in Pottstown and Boyertown both directly and indirectly.

The Colebrookdale Railroad offers an unparalleled educational opportunity to tell the story of the early American iron making, milling, lumber, and transportation industries central to the growth of the nation, a story of which the Colebrookdale Railroad and our region is a part;

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