

January 24, 2012

## WITNESSETH

Whereas, the Colebrookdale Railroad, a rail line extending a distance of 8.6 miles from milepost 0.0 at Pottstown, Pennsylvania, to milepost 8.6 to Boyertown, Pennsylvania, dates from the midnineteenth century and is an under-utilized historic resource;

Whereas, the Colebrookdale Railroad's history and construction reflects the culture and heritage of Pottstown, Boyertown, and Southeastern Pennsylvania;

Whereas, the Colebrookdale Railroad possesses natural and architectural beauty unsurpassed by any railroad in the northeastern United States;

Whereas, 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;

Whereas, passenger operation of the Colebrookdale Railroad will create jobs in Pottstown and Boyertown both directly and indirectly;

Whereas, the Colebrookdale Railroad offers an unparalleled educational opportunity to tell the story of the early American ironmaking, 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;

We therefore pledge our 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.

**Richard D. Lewis** President/CEO

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