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Sent: 04 September 2013 9:14 AM

To: Consultation on draft determination (ORR)

Cc: Rog Laker; DOWLING, Rachel

Subject: Charles Hendry - MP Walden - PR13 DD consultation - Support for electrification and longer trains service East Sussex, Kent and Surrey - 04092013

Dear Anna Walker,

As the Member of Parliament for Wealden, I fully support the proposal for the electrification of the Wealden line, and the delivery of longer trains, and longer platforms to accommodate these changes. I strongly support the recommendation that this proposal should be referenced in the Office of Rail Regulation's 'final determination' on Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan for 2014-19.

The Wealden line is an extremely important line, servicing many small towns and villages within Sussex and Kent, with a growing demand from both commuters and day trippers. Many of the current commuter services are full to capacity. Some of the trains are just two carriages and consequently commuters rare having to stand for almost the whole journey – for approaching an hour. On the evening trains out of London, people are standing as far as Edenbridge, even on longer trains.

With additional housebuilding, this problem is simply going to get worse over the coming years and it is evidently unlikely that new diesel stock can be provided in the short-term to alleviate it. Therefore looking at more long-term solutions, bringing forward the electrification of the line and the provision of a full fleet of carriages seems the only way to ensure an acceptable level of passenger service. It would also free up additional diesel stock which could be used on other lines under pressure.

I would be very grateful for your support for this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Hendry

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