

ATLANTIC NORTHEAST
RAILS & PORTS

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operating railroads + ports, intermodal facilities, and government environment

Post Office Box 357 Freeport, Maine 04032
Vox/cell 207-865-2922 Fax 866-484-4490

Chalmers (Chop) Hardenbergh, publisher and editor
editor@atlanticnortheast.com www.atlanticnortheast.com

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Governance Committee on Public Access
c/o The Trial Court Information Center
2 Center Plaza
Boston, Ma 02108

To the Committee:

I write to support complete access to the Superior Court dockets – and a fee to support the access.

The federal trial court docket and document access, via PACER, helps me immensely in covering cases involving railroads in Massachusetts and elsewhere. As I do not have a Massachusetts bar number, I cannot read the Superior Court filings and dockets.

This limits my ability to cover the news involving very public entities: the railroads in Massachusetts.

No complaints about federal open access have reached me, either involving a case I was covering in the federal district court, or involving another case.

I can think of no reason to restrict access, other than a desire on the part of my former brothers and sisters at the bar (a Northeastern University Law grad, I gave up practicing law in 1980) to preserve their income or the “mystique” of the law.

Please open up the dockets, and charge a fee similar to that charged by PACER.

Thanks for considering this,



Chalmers Hardenbergh