



CITY OF BEACON New York

Christopher White
City Administrator

OFFICE OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR

845-838-5000

July 13, 2021

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Ms. Cynthia Brown
Secretary, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 13, 2021
Part of
Public Record

RE: *Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company—Application for Adverse Discontinuance of Trackage Rights—Housatonic Railroad Company- STB Docket No. AB 1311.*

Dear Ms. Brown:

The City of Beacon, New York is submitting for your consideration this letter of support for the Application for Adverse Discontinuance of Trackage Rights submitted by Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company (“Metro-North”) for trackage known as the “Beacon Line,” an inactive railroad line which runs through center of our community.

The Beacon Line has seen no rail traffic- passenger or freight- in many years, and the proposed discontinuance of Housatonic Railroad Company’s Trackage Rights would allow this underutilized transportation corridor to be redeveloped and repurposed into a non-motorized multi-use path or “rail trail.” The Beacon Line has no foreseeable use for freight rail, and the abandonment of this trackage will have only a positive impact on our community.

The discontinuance and subsequent railbanking process will allow the County of Dutchess in cooperation with the City of Beacon and Metro-North to develop the Beacon Line into a rail trail connecting our community to the Empire State Trail until such time that the rail is needed at some point in the future. This trail connection will provide local economic benefits and improve the quality of life for our residents.

The City strongly supports Metro-North’s proposed discontinuance of trackage rights and abandonment, and we appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Christopher White
City Administrator

CC: Parties of Record