

Town of Denmark Town Supervisor Scott M. Doyle

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307146

August 21, 2023

To: Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Railroad Abandonment
Mohawk Adirondack & Northern Railroad Docket # AB-768

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 15, 2023
Part of
Public Record

To Whom it May Concern:

As the Town of Denmark Supervisor, I am writing to convey our concerns with proposed abandonment of this rail line that runs through the Township. Lewis County Government Representatives have proposed converting this railbed to a multi-use recreational trail. Feedback from Town residents has been negative. I also spoke out against it the night it passed at our County Legislators Meeting.

As New York State and the Federal Government move toward reduction of fossil fuel transportation the renewed need for railroad transportation systems could become even more crucial to the survival of businesses that need to move products to and from markets outside of our Township.

Agriculture is the Town of Denmark's largest employer. Today we have grain farmers that truck their crops to rail & shipping points in the Port of Oswego and Port of Ogdensburg. They also truck to rail shipping points in Pierpont Manor. If diesel trucks become obsolete, they will be forced utilize high priced inefficient electric trucks, which are unproven in cold winter temperatures that Northern New York receives. If these tracks are removed future development or expansion will be severely limited.

We acknowledge the high cost of rehabilitation that would be needed to return this rail line into a viable transportation option. That said, if the County is permitted to proceed with their project, the chances of them being utilized again will be zero. Future development of industry and economic survival may well depend on the restoration of that rail line.

We ask that you help us keep our options open with your denial of this abandonment plan.

Respectfully submitted for the Town of Denmark Board

Scott M. Doyle

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Town of Denmark
Supervisor

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Service Transportation Board,

Please be advised that the Town of Denmark's letter was delivered to Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern Railroad Corporations, (Which is owned by Genesee Valley Transportation) Attorney John F. Fiorilla ESQ, via US Mail on August 29, 2023. Our letter was mailed to STB on August 21, 2023.

This letter should be viewed as documentation certifying notification.

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Town of Denmark Supervisor