

August 15, 2023

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 20, 2023
Part of
Public Record

To: Federal Service Transportation Board
From: Town of New Bremen Town Board
Re: Railroad abandonment

Lowville Beaver River Railroad Company Docket # AB-180

Mohawk Adirondack & Northern Railroad Docket # AB-768

To Whom it May Concern:

As Town Supervisor I am writing to convey our concerns with the proposed abandonment of these rail lines that run through our Township. Our County representatives have proposed converting this railbed into a multi-use recreational trail. Surveys of the community have shown that a majority of the residents in New Bremen are strongly opposed to this plan.

As New York State and the Federal government move toward reduction of fossil fuel transportation the need for railroad transportation systems will become even more crucial to the survival of businesses that need to move products both into and out of the Township.

Currently there are several businesses along this railway that are forced to utilize trucks to move their products. If diesel trucks become obsolete they will be forced to utilize high priced inefficient electric trucks. (And reality tells us that they will not work in Northern New York.) If these tracks are removed future development or expansion of existing business will be severely limited.

While we acknowledge the high cost to rehabilitate these tracks into a functional system we are convinced that if they are allowed to be removed there will be zero chance of them coming back. Future development of industry and economic survival may very well depend on the repair and future use of railroads across this country.

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

Respectfully,
For the Town Board

Peter J. Keys, Town Supervisor
Town of New Bremen
8420 State Route 812
Lowville, New York 13367

CC: Parties of Record